

Hafa Adai!

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DESPITE EXPIRATION OF 30-DAY PERIOD TO RESPOND

CUC to ask for OPA extension

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that it would ask for an extension to submit their formal response after a draft audit was submitted to the utilities company by the Office of the Public Auditor last March 17. The deadline to respond expired last Sunday.



Camacho

Documents obtained by *Saipan Tribune* Sunday indicate that the OPA audit recommends the CUC corporate structure should be looked into and completely overhauled after they found that the corporation has failed as an independent agency.

According to the audit, CUC is riddled with issues pertaining to sustainability and con-

licts against the corporation's ability to carry out its fiduciary duties due to numerous political influences in the form of both the legislative branch

and executive branch and past CUC directors' inability to establish adequate rates to recover operational costs.

See CUC on Page 4

Veterans' program extension awaits Trump signature

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER

Moves to extend the Veterans Choice Program awaits the signature of President Donald Trump after U.S. Congress passed a Senate bill finally giving veterans access medical care locally.

The Senate passed the bill—co-authored by Sens. John McCain (R-Arizona), Jon Tester (D-Montana), Johnny Isakson (R-Georgia), and Jerry Moran (R-Kansas)—on April

3 and the House of Representatives two days after.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) said the bill or the Veterans Choice Improvement Act, if it becomes a law, would allow veterans in the CNMI and other remote areas to continue getting medical care rather than traveling to get treated.

"The House approved an extension of the Veterans Choice Program, which would otherwise end on Aug. 7," said **See VETERANS on Page 4**

ACCORDING TO YAQUINTO, RUSZALA COUNSEL:

'Save for 1, all CUC board directors violated law and disregarded statutory duties'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board directors, who are being sued by former CUC public information officer Brad Ruszala and former CUC chief financial officer Matthew Yaquinto, violated their fiduciary duties to the CNMI people by violating Common-

wealth law and disregarding their statutory duties, according to attorney George Lloyd Hasselback.

Hasselback, counsel for Ruszala and Yaquinto, said the duties owed by a fiduciary are some of the highest recognized by the CNMI laws.

The lawyer said because all government officials owe a fi-

See SAVE on Page 4



JON PEREZ

BEATING THE DEADLINE

Anthony Alegre beats the last day for filing taxes yesterday at the Division of Revenue and Taxation. Dozens of Saipan residents filed their 2016 income tax returns only yesterday, the Department of Finance's deadline to submit them.

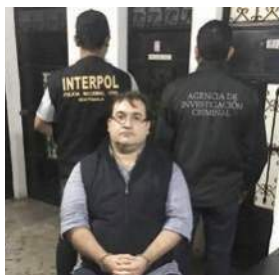
INSIDE



ASIA

President Donald Trump asserted on Sunday that China was working with the United States on "the North Korea problem."

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FOCUS

A former governor who had become a symbol of government corruption in Mexico was transferred to a Guatemalan military prison on Sunday.

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LIFE & STYLE

The eighth installment in the "Fast and the Furious" is on the path to becoming the biggest worldwide debut of all time.

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GOT A NEWS TIP?

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Local

Mariana Lounge opens for business

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

Kan Pacific Saipan Ltd. vice president Gloria Cavanagh said a new era in providing customer service in the CNMI has begun with the opening of Mariana Lounge last Friday. The Lounge is located at the former China House along Beach Road after National Office Supply.

The Mariana Lounge is the fourth business that Kan Pacific

has opened as they prepare for the expected closure of Mariana Resort & Spa and Marianas Country Club. The Lounge is under Mariana Grand Service, which also offers transportation services to tourists.

Kan Pacific, headed by president Yoshihiro Kitami, also owns and operates Mariana Ocean and Zen Teppanyaki Restaurant.

Cavanagh said CNMI tourism officials have been aware of the difficulty tourists ex-



JON PEREZ

Kan Pacific Saipan Ltd. president Yoshihiro Kitami, third right, leads the ribbon cutting of the Mariana Lounge on Friday. Others in photo are, from left, Mariana Resort & Spa property manager Charlene Babauta, Kan Pacific vice president and Mariana Resort & Spa general manager Gloria Cavanagh, Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, Rep. Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan), and Marianas Visitors Authority acting managing director Judy Chong Torres.

perience whether they just arrived on Saipan or about to leave the island.

"Majority of flights arrive and leave in the wee hours of the morning. Mariana Lounge provides services to tourists who are unable to check in to their hotel rooms until later that day. Additionally, we provide services to those who are about to leave. Those who check out at noon."

Cavanagh added they considered the stress tourists go through after standing in line for hours after arriving at the airport. "We wanted to provide a lounge that is convenient and luxurious, I believe that we have achieved this."

The Lounge's strategic location also adds to the ambience with the Saipan lagoon just across. "What better view to end or begin your trip. This is a place where you can see that you're in paradise"

Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog said the administration is thrilled for Kan Pacific's decision to open the Lounge. "It is a good way of providing passengers who are waiting to check in a place to rest rather than sleeping at the lobby of the hotel. They made this amenity available for them to relax and be comfortable."

He added that Kan Pacific's newest business venture would be an additional source

of revenue for the CNMI. It would generate some revenue, but not as much as we expect compared to a hotel room but it would help. It would provide revenue not only for Kan Pacific but also contribute to tax payment for business."

Rep. Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan), the House Commerce and Tourism Committee chair, said he was glad Kan Pacific took the initiative to address a bigger issue to provide tourists arriving in the early morning a place where they can briefly stay after a long flight.

"This is a new idea for the island and a lot of our visitors arrive in the early morning. They have to either wait at the hotel lobby as their rooms are being prepared. The same also goes to passengers who are about to leave. They just sit at the lobby waiting for their time to go to the airport for their flight."

Guerrero said Mariana Lounge also makes it easier for tourists to be transported to the airport. "The Lounge gives them a place to stay and relax for a minimum fee. I've heard that they've linked up with all of the airlines so there's no chance for them to miss their flight."

The Mariana Lounge is similar to facilities operated by airlines at the airport for their passengers waiting for the time to board their flights.

"But here, it is a different environment. Away from the airport, a place for visitors to relax, incoming, and outgoing, this is a good idea. They can get some snacks, have breakfast and coffee," said Guerrero.

Marianas Visitors Authority acting managing director Judy Chong Torres applauded Kan Pacific for their new business added that they are also excited for the new service that they are offering.

"We applaud [Kan Pacific] for seeing the need to help our visitors and meeting that need. We commend them for having the vision to make visitors' stay affordable and comfortable in an innovative way that adds quality to our destination."

"This is the place where visitors can transition for a few hours between airport and hotel or vice versa without having to pay a whole night stay just to relax and refresh themselves."

She added that the Mariana Lounge is providing a new service to its customers. "Mariana Lounge offers a respite for visitors in an unbeatable location, just across the street from crystal clear western lagoon, a scenic pathway, and spectacular sunsets."

"Starting today, expect more foot traffic at this location. We are looking forward for more happy photos and active social media shares of our islands."

Forum spotlights chemistry profession

The University of Guam Chemistry Program is hosting a Chemistry Forum on April 19 from 6pm to 8pm in the CLASS Lecture Hall at UOG. Any person interested in chemistry is invited to attend.

The forum features guest

speaker Frank Ishizaki who will be talking about his "Island Chemistry Story." Ishizaki is one of the University's 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award winners and is the first Triton to graduate from UOG with a chemistry degree.

The forum will also fea-

ture information on program updates for UOG's Chemistry program and a panel of Chemistry professionals who will discuss opportunities for graduates of the program.

For more information, contact Dr. Maika Vuki at vukim@triton.uog.edu. (PR)

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Corrections officer Camacho testifies

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Corrections officer Ray Anthony Maratita Camacho took the witness stand yesterday in Superior Court and denied he assaulted then-inmate Ryan Cavalear at the Department of Corrections on April 1, 2016.

After Camacho's testimony, defense counsel Colin Thompson announced that they have no other witness and rested their case. Thompson renewed defendant's motion for judgment of acquittal, but Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo denied it.

Assistant attorney general Matthew Baisley also rested yesterday the government's case after calling in a total of 11 witnesses, including Cavalear.

Before Thompson started the defense's closing arguments, Govendo, who presided over the bench trial, disclosed that he will announce his verdict today, Tuesday, at 9am.

Camacho is on trial for assault and battery, a misdemeanor offense.

Camacho, who has been employed with DOC for the past 17 years, testified that

he did not apply chokehold, slap, or assault Cavalear.

Camacho said he did not hear Cavalear asking for medicine and that he was also not aware that the inmate had oral surgery a day before that incident.

He said Cavalear was yelling and cursing so he approached and gave him an order to step back, but he refused to comply.

The Corrections officer said Cavalear was not cooperative.

He denied he slapped Cavalear's face, saying he only tried to protect the inmate's face from hitting the door.

Camacho said Cavalear claimed to be a veteran but for him he is not a veteran but an inmate.

Cavalear earlier testified that he told Camacho and Corrections Officer Admisen Dasio Haddy to stop dragging and holding his arms up because his spine hurts, as he is an Army veteran and broke his back during his military service.

Camacho answered that either he does not recall and or does not remember to many questions raised by Baisley during cross-examination.

Govendo told Camacho that the trial started a week ago and several witnesses testified in great details, but his repeated answers: "I don't recall. I don't remember."

Govendo said Camacho testified that he believes that holding up the arms of the already handcuffed Cavalear behind his back was a proper way.

Govendo noted that Department of Public Safety police director Pete Deleon Guerrero testified that absolutely it's not the proper way because that would dislocate the inmate's arms.

"I'm wondering who trained you that it's the proper

way?" Govendo said.

Camacho replied that maybe it's not the proper way.

In the government's closing arguments, Baisley said it's not the proper way to treat inmates especially to a person who served his country and had surgery during military service.

Baisley said inflicting pain on an inmate should not be tolerated and anyone doing it should be held accountable regardless who the victim is.

Baisley said witnesses corroborated Cavalear's testimony that Camacho held his neck, slammed him on the

floor, and slapped him.

The prosecutor said Camacho's conduct was unlawful because there is no justification for inflicting pain on Cavalear.

Baisley said both experts—police director Deleon Guerrero and former FBI special agent Frank Ishizaki—agree that they were bothered that Cavalear would dislocate his shoulders.

Baisley said Cavalear was indeed yelling and cursing because he was frustrated in trying to get his pain medication.

"He's asserting his right to have his medication. He's in pain," the prosecutor said.

In the defense's closing arguments, Thompson said

physical force is authorized and that's the discretion of the officers.

Thompson said what is unlawful is chokehold and the evidence showed that Camacho did not apply that.

He said the two experts—Deleon Guerrero and Ishizaki—testified that DOC officers should be trained better in proper handling of inmates.

Thompson said Camacho did not slap Cavalear as shown by the video's footage and witnesses' accounts.

Thompson said based on testimony and evidence, the government failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt to support Camacho's conviction as to assault and battery.

Suspect in Garapan stabbing a Beilida Overseas employee

An argument over a phone charger triggered a stabbing in Garapan in which a 24-year-old man was injured on Thursday night. Court documents also showed that the arrested suspect is an employee of Beilida Overseas (CNMI) Ltd.

Chuan Nian Bi, 44, a Chinese national, was arrested on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon and assault and battery. At a hearing yesterday, he informed the court that he is a "labor assistance" for Beilida Overseas.

The victim, Zudou Ma, a Chinese national, suffered a wound on the left chest area and a laceration on the left arm. He was transported to the Commonwealth Health Center for further treatment. It's not clear whether he is also an employee of Beilida.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho maintained the \$50,000 cash bail that was originally imposed on Bi by Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Assistant public defender Nancy Dominski was appointed as counsel for Bi. Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds appeared for the government. Preliminary hearing will be on April 25 at 1:30pm.

MCC International is the construction contractor for Imperial Pacific. Beilida Overseas is a subcontractor of MCC. The Garapan offices of the two companies were searched by the Federal Bu-

reau of Investigation recently.

Police Detective Danny Joe Fitial stated in his report that a Koban Unit police officer responded on Thursday at 9:15pm at the Queens Apartment Building in western Garapan, where a stabbing in progress was reported.

A security guard at Queens Apartment escorted the officer to the second floor of the building, where the injured Ma was lying on the ground.

The officer then requested the Department of Public Safety Central for medics and crime scene technician. Ma was subsequently taken to the hospital.

Bi was arrested at the scene. He had a laceration on the face.

Fitial said witnesses stated that Bi and Ma had an argument on the fourth floor.

Later, Bi took a fruit knife, came down to the second floor, where he stabbed Ma. Other people tried to stop Bi from assaulting Ma.

Police failed to recover the knife.

Ma told police that he was packing his belongings as he was going back to China, and noticed that his phone charger was missing.

Ma asked Bi about his charger. Bi denied having it and that resulted in an argument. Ma later checked Bi's luggage. Bi got mad and the two got into a fight. Other individuals pacified the two, but Bi later attacked Ma with the knife. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



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Saipan students to leave for Korea trip

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

Some 25 Saipan students from Saipan are scheduled to leave for South Korea this summer.

The Saipan Mayor's Of-

fice has re-opened its Visit to Korea program this year and opened 25 slots for interested students. According to assistant to the mayor Yuuki Kishimoto those slots filled up fairly quickly.

Both the Saipan Mayor's Office and the Korean Community of Saipan selected the students that will partake in the trip. A total of 23 students were selected by the Saipan Mayor's Office and the Ko-

rean Community of Saipan selected two.

Students who were selected were from Marianas High School, Saipan Southern High School, Mount Carmel School, and a few Northern

Marianas College students.

There will also be guides who will accompany the students on their trip. The five guides will be selected by the mayor's office.

Korean translators from the island of Saipan will also take part in the trip. The Korean Community of Saipan chose five translators. The Korean Community of Saipan also chose five tour conductors to lead the trip.

The Korean Community of Saipan will meet with the Saipan Mayor's Office some time this week to talk and finalize all that needs to be finalized for the trip.

Students will arrive in Korea on June 4 and will start their trip around Korea by June 5.

The students will start off their trip at the War Memorial of Korea located in Yongsan. This is to enlighten the students on the war history of Korea.

Then the following day, the students will take a bus to Yongin where students will visit the Yongin zip line. This is to demonstrate the excellence of Korea's landscape and to show its natural beauty.

The following day, students will be transported to Incheon to see the industrial complex and promote the industrialization of Korea.

The last stop that the students will make on their trip is to Itaewon Seoul. This area of Korea is busiest place. This is to portray the beauty and development of Korea.

The trip ensures that the students will learn each objective that the Korean Community of Saipan and Saipan Mayor's Office has set for the students. The objectives are to see the development, industrialization, and beauty of Korea, and to learn the history and culture of the country.

38 take part in good governance workshop in Kiribati

The Kiribati National Audit Office in partnership with the Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI) delivered a workshop to enhance good governance, transparency, and accountability in the island state. The workshop also covered an introduction to the new Audit Bill to strengthen financial oversight and external scrutiny. It was held at the Kiribati Parliament Complex on April 7, 2017 and attended by 38 participants including the President, His Excellency Taneti Maamau, Cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliament, the Clerk, Attorney-General and the Legal Draftsman.

The Speaker of Parliament, Honorable Tebuai Uai, in opening the workshop, emphasized the important role legislators play in the scrutiny of the audited reports and financial oversight of the use and management of public resources. He added that as legislators they need auditors to provide them with assurance on the economy and effective use of public resources. Therefore promoting ethical behaviour and good governance starts with supporting the SAI.

The Auditor-General of Kiribati, Matereta Raiman and PASAI Advocate, Eroni Vatuloka, conducted the workshop.

The participants discussed the various clauses of the new Audit Bill especially the creation of an Audit Board and the inclusion of performance and IT audits with the other current functions of the Auditor-General. His Excellency the New Zealand High Commissioner in Kiribati Michael Upton in his closing address, re-assured that while the Audit Board will provide guidance and support to the Auditor-General, the Audit Bill specifically provides that the arrangement will not interfere with the Auditor-General's independence. Furthermore, His Excellency Taneti Maamau thanked PASAI and the

Kiribati National Audit Office for co-ordinating such a useful workshop to raise the capacity of the Members of Parliament on the Audit Bill and understanding the importance of good governance, transparency and accountability in the process of Parliament.

This programme comes under Strategic Priority 2, Advocacy for governance, accountability and transparency of PASAI's long-term strategic plan. PASAI acknowledges the valued support from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT). (PR)

Pacific Community congratulates 'Utoikamanu on high level UN appointment

NOUMEA, New Caledonia—The Pacific Community (SPC) offers its congratulations on the appointment of the Kingdom of Tonga's Fekita 'Utoikamanu to the esteemed position of United Nations High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States by the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr Antonio Guterres.

SPC Director-General Dr. Colin Tukuitonga congratulated 'Utoikamanu, a former SPC Deputy Director-General, with assurances of SPC's support in carrying her duties forward and the important work of the global multilateral body.

"SPC joins the global community in unified voice and common agenda for sustainable development. From the Pacific, climate change and sustainable environmental management

is especially pressing, and it brings us great pleasure that Ms. 'Utoikamanu has been appointed to champion these and other efforts of global concern," Tukuitonga said.

"'Utoikamanu is an accomplished and well respected diplomat, and we are confident that she will lead her office and their important programmes of work with great vision, integrity and resolve," he concluded.

'Utoikamanu was SPC's Deputy Director-General from 2009 to 2015. Prior to that, she served as Tonga's Permanent Representative and Ambassador to the United Nations, United States of America, Cuba and Venezuela and High Commissioner to Canada.

SPC is a Permanent Observer to the UN since 2014, following the adoption of a resolution by the UN General Assembly. (PR)

SAVE

From Page 1

duciary duty to the people of the CNMI, and the defendants CUC board directors are government officials who manage the CUC, the defendants owe a fiduciary duty to the people of the Commonwealth.

The CUC board, Hasselback said, should at least not break the law when they take official action.

Hasselback discussed CUC board directors fiduciary duties, among other issues, in Ruszala's and Yaquinto's opposition to CUC board's motion to dismiss their lawsuit.

Ruszala and Yaquinto sued all CUC board members, except David Sablan Jr., for allegedly holding closed-door meetings under the guise of "executive sessions" and using their positions to obtain private financial gain for themselves and their relatives.

Ruszala and Yaquinto sued CUC board chair Adelina C. Roberto and board members Eric C. San Nicolas, Joseph T. Torres, Ignacio L. Perez, and Albert A. Taitano for violations of the Open Govern-

ment Act, Government Ethics Code, and U.S. District for the NMI stipulated order.

Ruszala and Yaquinto asked the Superior Court to declare that defendants are in violation of their fiduciary duties to the people of the CNMI for their continued failure to comply with the OGA requirements.

The plaintiffs requested the court to declare that all ordinances, resolutions, rules, regulations, directives created by the CUC board in violation of OGA, be declared null and void.

The defendants, through counsel James Sirok, moved the court to dismiss the lawsuit.

According to Sirok, the lawsuit is nothing more than a veiled attempt to obtain a "stepping stone" for a request to Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres to remove all board members except David J. Sablan Jr.

Sirok said the complaint is nothing more than a thinly veiled attempt to persuade the court to enter an order declaring that each of the individually named defendants have violated their fiduciary duties as members of the CUC board of directors to the people of the CNMI.

"They have failed to name as a defendant one board member who has been outspoken and critical of CUC, Mr. Sablan," said Sirok in CUC board members' motion to dismiss.

In Ruszala's and Yaquinto's opposition to the motion filed on Friday, Hasselback asked the court

to deny in its entirety CUC board members' motion to dismiss, and immediately order each board member to file their respective answer to their complaint.

Hasselback, asserted that the arguments raised in CUC board's motion to dismiss are not supported by any relevant legal authority, are raised at an improper time and/or lack of any reasonable factual or legal basis.

Hasselback said the defendants are sued in their capacities as members of the CUC board.

Hasselback said each of cause of action states that the defendants acted "as members of the CUC board..."

Put simply, the lawyer said, the complaint simply cannot be construed as being directed toward the defendants solely

in their personal capacities.

Hasselback said the entire crux of this lawsuit is that Ruszala and Yaquinto claim that the defendants have violated their fiduciary duties to the people of the CNMI by breaking the law and failing to take reasonable steps to comply with a stipulated order that could impose significant penalties upon the CUC if its terms are not met.

Hasselbacks said every time that the CUC board takes any official action that official action implicates their fiduciary duty to the public.

The defendants, he said, may not compel the plaintiffs to pursue an action against government officials who did not violate the law.

Hasselback said his clients have alleged sufficient facts to support a taxpayer suit for the expenditure of funds for a non-public purpose.

The plaintiffs, he said, may pursue a taxpayer action against the defendants without alleging the expenditure of public funds for a non-public purpose.

Hasselback said the motion should be confined to the facts as alleged in the complaint.

VETERANS

From Page 1

Sablan, who is a member of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs chaired by Rep. Phil Roe (R-Tennessee).

"Veterans in the Marianas and other remote areas will continue to be able to get medical care from their local physicians, rather than traveling off island to a veterans clinic, until early 2018.

Sablan said the committee unanimously passed the extension bill with few amendments on the existing law. "Including making the VA the primary payer for care outside a VA clinic, even for non-service connected conditions. We also allowed the VA to share veteran's health records with outside care providers, unless the veteran objects."

CUC

From Page 1

OPA has looked at CUC's legal and organizational structure, covering everything since its birth in 1985.

CUC executive director Gary Camacho said yesterday that he would be requesting the OPA for an extension to submit their response. The timeline of the extension was not provided, but Camacho assured that a request to extend would certainly be sent.

The OPA draft audit was dated March 17 and was sent to Camacho, CUC board chair Adelina Roberto, and CUC legal counsel James Sirok. OPA gave CUC 30 days to submit their response. The deadline for CUC expired last April 16.

According to Camacho, CUC failed to respond to the OPA audit due to the fact that the corporation has had a "busy three weeks."

"CUC is currently reviewing this document, and I have yet to hear from the board, so I would request for an extension because a lot of things have been happening. We would step back and continue to review [the OPA audit] to prepare a proper response," said Camacho.

When *Saipan Tribune* asked whether the audit was brought up during any of the CUC board meetings, Camacho replied, "I believe it has."

"There is a lot of information that our board members need to review to prepare their response. We would be working with them for any input management has in this regard," said Camacho.

"We are hopeful that something would be prepared soon, but that requires an extension," he added.

Camacho assured that the "best decisions would be solicited in moving forward to better the corporation and our services to the community."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
MHS' Dolphenatic Architects members pose with their 3rd place trophy after competing at the 2017 University of Guam Sustainability Conference and Green Dream School Competition yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Guam.

MHS bags 3rd place in Guam, KHS gets 4th

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

A group of students from Marianas High School claimed 3rd place at a competition in Guam that was participated by nine other schools.

MHS' Dolphenatic Architects won 3rd place at the 2017 University of Guam Sustainability Conference and Green Dream School Competition yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Guam.

The Green Dream School Competition is a designing competition that challenges students to draft a sustainability plan for their respective campuses encompassing environmental sustainability in all aspects.

The students were expected to conduct research on appropriate sustainable practices, green technologies, systems, and designs that can be implemented at their school.

According to an email from Public School System STEM Fair coordinator Jeaniffer Cubangbang, the MHS team received the highest scores from two of five judges in the whole competition.

"Their sustainability action plan presented through aerial

video, model, and PowerPoint incorporated ingenious renovations that are eco-friendly, innovative and cost-effective that can actually be used by MHS and PSS for future consideration," wrote Cubangbang.

The MHS sustainable action plan included a maintenance plan with projected costs as the student's research showed that maintenance costs were not factored into some energy solutions implement in other schools on Saipan.

Kagman High School also represented Saipan, along with Saipan Southern High School. KHS placed 4th while SSHS was not able to place in the rankings.

The MHS Dolphenatic Architects consist of head architect Ian Cataluna, data manager Anjenette Cubangbang, modeler facilitator Michaela Gatdula, head researcher Marie Manebo, researcher Hajin Oh, and modeler Melissa Santos.

The Dolphenatic Architects also placed first at The 2017 CNMI Public School system Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Fair and at the 2016 UOG Green Dream Competition.

Tourist couple allegedly paid fake \$20, \$1 bills at restaurant

A Garapan restaurant allegedly detected a counterfeit \$20 bill and two counterfeit \$1 bills from a tourist couple who had dinner at the establishment on Friday night.

As of press time, *Saipan Tribune* was still waiting comments from the Office of the Attorney General about the detection of alleged fake money at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Garapan as well as unconfirmed information that other establishments on the island also received counterfeit bills.

Shirley's Coffee Shop manager Noelle Rafael said the Chinese couple ordered food and used a fake \$20 bill and two fake \$1 bills.

Rafael said when the couple handed the folded bills the cashier felt something wrong as the texture of the money

was different.

The cashier then used a counterfeit detector pen, which indicated that the bills were indeed fake.

Before the couple left the restaurant, the cashier stopped and informed them about the counterfeit money that they used.

Rafael said the couple claimed that they got the bills from a bank.

The cashier marked the bills so the couple could no longer use them.

Rafael said the incident was referred to management the day after. She told the staff that next time they detect counterfeit money, they should call the authorities.

"We should have called the police," the manager said, adding that it's the first time that they encountered fake money. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



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Postal facility to be renamed for Sablan

The U.S. Postal Service will dedicate the building housing its Saipan Post Office in Chalan Kanoa in honor of the first native Saipan postmaster and CNMI's fallen service members at 9am on Thursday, April 20. The public is invited to attend this special event.

The event will be hosted by Saipan Postmaster Harry Wilcox and feature remarks by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, VFW commander Michael O'Kelley, Jeanette D. Sablan, and USPS director of Asia-Pacific Relations Leo Tudela. The program will culminate in the unveiling of a plaque that designates the Saipan Post Office facility as the "Segundo T. Sablan and CNMI Fallen Military Heroes Post Office Building."

Delegate Sablan introduced legislation to dedicate the

building in honor of Segundo Sablan and CNMI Fallen Military Heroes in July 2016; it was signed into law (PL 114-305) by President Barack Obama on Dec. 16, 2016.

"This event recognizes Mr. Sablan, the first Chamorro and native of Saipan to be appointed a U.S. Postmaster," the congressman said. "It also honors the servicemen and women from the Northern Mariana Islands, who lost their lives while serving our great country."

Saipan's first postmaster

Segundo Tudela Sablan was born on May 27, 1919 on Saipan. Shortly after the United States' victory over the Japanese in the Battle for Saipan during World War II,

Tun Segundo was among a small group of Chamorros and Carolinians selected by the U.S. military to serve as Marine Scouts for the 6th Provisional Police Military Battalion. His knowledge

of the terrain and fluency in the Japanese language made him ideally suited for the task of searching the island's caves and jungles for Japanese holdouts responsible for sniper and grenade attacks on American soldiers. In 1951, Tun Segundo was appointed the first U.S. postmaster for Saipan by the U.S. Navy, which at the time had administrative responsibility for the Northern Marianas under the United Nations Trusteeship Agreement. A dedicated postmaster, he twice

used his own home for postal operations after typhoons destroyed the post office building, and often neglected his farm and livestock to ensure families received their mail. A back injury sustained during the war eventually made it impossible for him to carry out the physical tasks required for the job. He resigned as postmaster in 1961.

CNMI fallen heroes

The post office name also serves as a tribute to sons and daughters of the Northern Marianas who have lost their lives in military service. Twenty young men and women have died during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. "I hope that knowing their service and sacrifice will never be forgotten brings a measure of comfort to their families and friends," Delegate Sablan said. (PR)

» **Dedication event scheduled for April 20 at Saipan Post Office**

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Walk & Roll Against Sexual Violence tomorrow

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence is inviting community members to take part in the Walk & Roll Against Sexual Violence on Wednesday, April 19, in Chalan Kanoa.

Registration will start at 5m at the Saipan Memorial Leadership Courtyard across the USPS building with the event starting at 5:30pm. The first 100 individuals to register will also receive a free T-shirt.

Walk participants are also highly encouraged to create signs or banners to help spread awareness on Sexual Assault Awareness Month, which is this April, and on sexual violence and/or to help show support for victims and survivors. This year's theme for the CNMI is "Engaging All Voices."

For more information, contact NMCADSV at (670) 234-3878 or email info@endviolencenmi.org. For more news and updates, follow NMCADSV on Facebook, Twitter (@endviolencenmi) and Instagram (@nmcadsv). (PR)

Air Force, Navy to conduct training at FDM, W-517

ASAN, Guam—The Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla April 17-21 from 9am to 6pm.

The Navy will also conduct training at Warning Area 517 (W-517) during the following dates and times:

■ April 19 from 10am to noon

■ April 20 from noon to 4pm

The general public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 12-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides frequent access that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon, located in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, provide sufficient room to conduct the many training profiles required to support aircrew combat readiness requirements.

During the dates and times indicated for W-517, Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank are not open for public use. W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. W-517 is contained within the following coordinates: 13° 10'N/144° 30'E, 13° 10'N/144° 42'E, 12° 50'N/144° 45'E, 11° 00'N/144° 45'E, 11° 00'N/143° 00'E, 11° 45'N/143° 00'E, 12° 50'N/144° 30'E.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055/3209. (PR)

Singapore Air Force to conduct training in CNMI

ASAN, Guam —The Republic of Singapore Air Force will conduct training at the Saipan, Tinian, and Rota airports April 17-19 during daylight hours.

RSAF aircraft will use established approach air corridors at least 300-500 feet above ground during the dates indicated. Air corridors are air traffic control designated air routes of travel for use by aircraft.

Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the trainings.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055/3209. (PR)



EASTER EGG HUNT

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and First Lady Diann Torres pose with participants and their parents, along with volunteers from the Center for Independent Living, Office of the Governor, and Lady Diann Torres Foundation during an Easter Egg Hunt event last Sunday designed for those with special needs. There were also finger foods, games, prizes, face painting, and a photo booth.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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IPI holds ‘Train-The-Trainer’ workshop

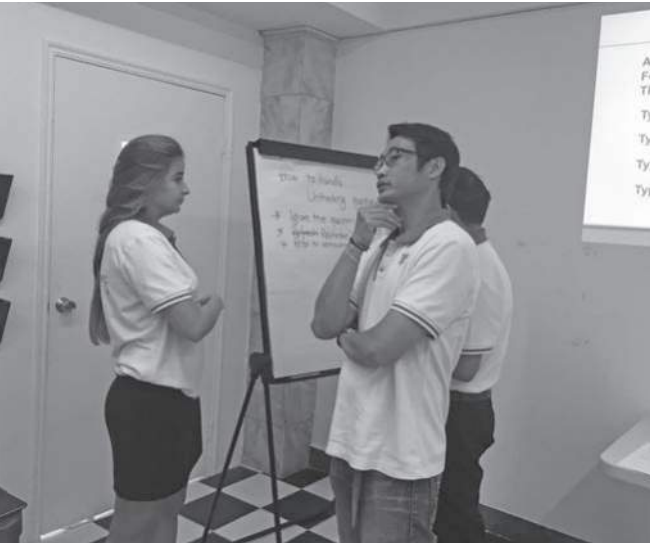
Imperial Pacific International continues to invest toward the continued growth and learning of its staff and personnel. Recently it held a successful three-day “Train-the-Trainer” workshop. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
IPI Food & Beverage assistant manager Kassandra Marquez shares her thoughts with the rest of the class during one of the activities.



Imperial Pacific's Train-the-Trainer workshop aims to certify 12 employees on effective practices and techniques. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
IPI lobby ambassador Anastasiia Safonova and F&B assistant manager Michael Jintamutta discuss on to the topic, “How to handle Unthinking Questions” during a training.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
IPI Laundry supervisor Tonton Roy demonstrates how to iron a shirt during the individual training presentation segment.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
IPI Butler Services supervisor Yap Low explores the different questioning and answering techniques during the TTT training.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Corporate Learning & Development assistant manager Hazel Tang tests the trainees' sense of smell as a part of the senses segment of the training.



IPI HELPS IN JKPL EGG HUNT
Imperial Pacific International's Corporate Social Responsibility team assisted the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library with their Easter Egg Hunt Event last Saturday. The team provided manpower, refreshments, and game booths at the event. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A group of trainees use teamwork to put the pieces of a puzzle together as part of the activities during the Train-The-Trainer training.

HYATT 21ST ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC

T Galleria DFS donates designer goods



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Billy Cheung, T Galleria by DFS Saipan assistant general manager; Gabriele Colombo, Hyatt Regency Saipan executive chef; Marian Aldan-Pierce, DFS Saipan Limited Division president; Tyrell Pauling, Hyatt Regency Saipan director of food and beverage; Esther Ada, DFS Saipan Limited human resources manager; and Marie Sablan, DFS Saipan Limited promotions specialist.

T Galleria DFS general manager Marian Aldan-Pierce and assistant general manager Billy Cheung proudly presented Hyatt Regency Saipan with their platinum donation.

The fun-filled package's total value is \$2,250 inclusive of \$1,000 in cash, \$1,000 worth of merchandise, as well as a \$250 TOC gift certificate.

"On behalf of DFS Saipan we are proud supporters of the Hyatt Regency Saipan Charity Golf Classic. Their notable efforts enhance our island community. We would like to encourage golfers and their guests to purchase raffle tickets the night of the dinner banquet. All proceeds will go to the beneficiaries who are nonprofit organizations whose mission is to support those in need," said Aldan-Pierce.

"On behalf of Hyatt Regency Saipan, we are truly delighted and grateful for T Galleria's generous donation. Contributions and community efforts from event partners like T Galleria provide lasting and active partnerships that share common missions alike. Touching lives and making smiles shine everyday is our specialty," said Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick K. Nishikawa.

Product support like this are donated to assist the efforts and community involvement that aids this year's six beneficiaries to include: Make-A-Wish Foundation, aiding them in their mission to grant wishes to children with life-threatening diseases; Kagman High School Million Dollar Club, supporting CNMI high school students in preparation and travel to higher education; Marianas Behavioral Health International, a rehabilitation

center dedicated to provide support for those who want to make a positive change in their lives; Karidat Social Services, a local organization supporting the needs of the community; Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation, which assists impoverished women and children of the CNMI; and the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, which has a goal to focus on supporting the education of indigenous cultures of the CNMI.

Grown in popularity over the years from being a fun golf tournament for Club At The Hyatt members to an island-wide charitable event; this year the Hyatt Regency Saipan Charity Golf Classic turns 21—a special year that most either remember or don't for the same reasons.

As of April 10, the Hyatt Regency Saipan 21st Annual Charity Golf Classic has successfully sold out 150 player slots. Special thanks to the early bird registrants and sponsors. If you are still interested in playing, call 234-1234 ext. 26 to get on the waiting list prior to April 17, 2017 to avail the early bird rate should a slot open up and receive a call from us directly.

Golfers are encouraged to invite a guest or two to the dinner banquet poolside, \$35 per person inclusive of free-flowing beverages and a dinner buffet featuring Certified Angus Beef cuts. Raffle tickets in the amounts of \$1, \$5, and \$10 will be sold for an array of prizes from designer handbags to high-end golf gear to round-trip tickets to the Philippines, Japan, Korea, and Europe that will be paired with hotel nights in other Hyatt, Hyatt Regency,

and Hyatt affiliate hotels. Prize packages as such will not be offered at any other tournament for the rest of 2017.

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Hyatt Regency Saipan will

hold its 21st Annual Charity Golf Classic event this Satur-

day, April 22, at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort west course.

For more information, contact 234-1234 ext. 26. (PR)

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Tips for kids or teens dealing w/ cyberbullying

If you are targeted by cyberbullies, it's important not to respond to any messages or posts written about you, no matter how hurtful or untrue. Responding will only make the situation worse and provoking a reaction from you is exactly what the cyberbullies want, so don't give them the satisfaction.

It's also very important that you don't seek revenge on a cyberbully yourself. Again, it will only make the problem worse and could result in serious legal consequences for you. If you wouldn't say it in person, don't say it online. Instead, respond to cyberbullying by:

Preventing communication from the cyberbully, by blocking their email address, cell phone number, and deleting them from social media contacts. Report their activities to their internet service provider (ISP) or to any social media or other web sites they use to target you. The cyberbully's actions may constitute a violation of the website's terms of service or, depending on the laws in your area, may even warrant criminal charges.

Saving the evidence of the cyberbullying, keep abusive text messages or a screenshot of a webpage, for example, and then report them to a trusted adult, such as a family member, teacher, or school counselor. If you don't report incidents, the cyberbully will often become more aggressive.

Reporting threats of harm and inappropriate sexual messages to the police. In many cases, the cyberbully's actions can be prosecuted by law.

Being relentless. Cyberbullying is rarely limited to one or two incidents. It's far more likely to be a sustained attack on you over a period of time. So, like the cyberbully, you may have to be relentless and keep reporting each and every bullying incident until it stops. There is no reason for you to ever put up with cyberbullying.

Information adapted from the helpguide.org, a collaboration through the Harvard Health Publications, Harvard Medical School. Reference: Robinson, L. & Segal, J. (2016). Dealing with Cyberbullying. Retrieved from <https://www.helpguide.org/articles/abuse/cyberbullying.htm>

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Opinion

Hafa Adahi!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Despite changes, no proof that Wells Fargo has fixed its problems

It cost Wells Fargo \$185 million in fines to deal with a massive scandal involving a push from bank executives in a cutthroat culture for employees to sell, sell, sell multiple type of accounts to customers who didn't need them.

But the bank seems to have a tin ear when it comes to the public perception of this scandal. On Monday, in advance of an April 25 shareholder meeting, the bank said it had pulled back an additional \$75 million in stock awards from a couple of top executives. Those executives, former CEO John Stumpf and former head of business, Carrie Tolsted, have had \$69 million and \$67 million in compensation, respectively, taken back.

Does Wells Fargo, which in a report blamed the scandal on a culture centered on sales and on the fact that the community banking unit had too much authority (probably granted because of the money being made there), really think the public is now going to forget about this?

Rather, customers and observers will be asking what in the world a couple of banking executives were doing making this kind of money in the first place. Nobel scientists who cure diseases and find planets and bring peace to war-torn corners of the Earth make a fraction of a fraction of this. The pay levels were absurd and insulting to the customers who are the backbone of the bank's business.

Stumpf became the poster boy for corporate greed when he appeared before a congressional committee in October of last year and was "addressed" by Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, the former Harvard professor who is one of the most brilliant minds in Congress.

Warren blistered Stumpf and said he should give back all the money he made during the "scam" as she called it (two million accounts opened without an OK from customers) and said Stumpf exhibited "gutless leadership." The now-resigned CEO looked like a man who might have offered to trade places with Custer at Little Big Horn.

The heat on the bank may have been turned down in the minds of insiders, but the board of directors meeting could be interesting, reports The Charlotte Observer.

Some observers are urging that shareholders vote against all the 15 directors who are up for re-election. And while those attending aren't likely to grill executives the way Warren went after Stumpf, things may get unpleasant for them, and justifiably so.

Shareholders have a right to demand evidence, strong evidence, that the bank's culture has truly changed. And part of the change ought to be a downsizing of the ridiculous compensation levels that clearly weren't appropriate. How exactly did Wells' customers and shareholders benefit from those salaries? That sounds like something appropriate for Sen. Warren's next line of questioning.

Bet the bank executives can't wait for that.

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Reflecting on Lincoln's assassination, Tax Day and In God We Trust

The lowly penny and the \$5 bill are dedicated to the quintessential American icon, Abraham Lincoln.

Our 16th president preserved the Union through the catastrophic carnage of the Civil War. By his assassination, he fulfilled his own poetic prose, by giving his "last full measure of devotion" as he strove to heal his fractured nation's wounds "with malice toward none and charity for all."

Although many remember Lincoln's sublime rhetoric, most have forgotten one of his most ubiquitous legacies.

Take a look at a Lincoln penny. It seems almost worthless in our era with a national debt of a "score" of a trillion dollars. (Let's hope Congress solves the problem long before it becomes "four score" trillion.)

That humble coin (as well as all our currency) bears the national motto, "In God We Trust." Have you ever wondered how those words got there?

Salmon P. Chase, Lincoln's secretary of the treasury, proposed the national motto be placed on American coins. According to House Speaker Schuyler Colfax's eulogy for Lincoln, this became the president's last official act.

Just before he was assassinated, Lincoln signed into law Congress' legislation, which passed on March 3, 1865. Although Lincoln had throughout his life struggled with depression and doubt, in his last act he called on Americans in their daily acts of commerce to trust in God.

A day after Congress passed the bill, in his Second Inaugural Address, Lincoln openly manifested trust in God. He declared, "The Almighty has His own purposes." Lincoln appealed to "the providence of God," insisting that "the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether."

He committed himself to "firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right." By his signature on Congress' bill, from an idea proposed by Chase, he made trust in God a prominent feature of American life.

Little did he know that his life would be cut short.

On April 14, 1865, John Wilkes Booth's .44-caliber Der-

By **PETER A. LILLBACK**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Peter A. Lillback is the president of the Providence Forum in King of Prussia, Penn. He wrote this for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may email him at plillback@wts.edu



ringer delivered its fatal blast. Lincoln died the next morning, on April 15.

In an accident of history, ever since 1954, Tax Day has been April 15 (except when it falls on a weekend or holiday, like this year). Thus, for more than 60 years, the day of Lincoln's demise has normally been the day that the federal government collects (or confiscates) Lincoln pennies, Lincoln bills and a whole lot more. Taxpayers often feel like they have given more than their "last full measure of devotion."

So on Tax Day this year, remember Honest Abe, his final official act and ask if we still trust in God as a nation. If we've forgotten Lincoln's date of death and his final official act, it's not surprising that in our national amnesia we may have forgotten God, too.

This would be no surprise to Lincoln.

On March 30, 1863, in the midst of the war, Lincoln joined Congress in calling for a day of prayer and fasting. He declared:

"We have grown in numbers, wealth, and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. ... Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us!"

Look again at Lincoln's visage on the penny. Give thanks to God for his leadership. Give thanks, too, that you've made enough this year to have to pay taxes.

And, if you can, declare with Lincoln, "In God We Trust."

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Tax reform? Good luck with that, GOP

Stung by the collapse of the Republican plan to reshape the U.S. health-care system, President Donald Trump's White House says that it's taking charge of the next big GOP initiative: tax reform.

What it wants and who will manage the effort isn't clear, but here are some legislative approaches the administration could pursue:

■ A sweeping tax-reform plan with huge cuts in tax rates balanced by elimination of special-interest tax advantages, plus a massive infrastructure-spending bill. This approach would be aimed at winning bipartisan support in Congress.

■ A scaled-back but still sizable package done through a special Congressional budget reconciliation process that would limit the scope of changes to taxing and spending programs. Because measures passed through reconciliation aren't subject to the Senate filibuster, this route wouldn't require any cooperation from Democrats.

■ A major tax cut unbalanced by revenue-raising measures like base broadening or loophole closing. This approach would avoid messy fights with the powerful lobbies for virtually all special tax advantages, but it could greatly increase the federal deficit. It could either aim to attract Democratic allies or could be accomplished through reconciliation.

■ Cuts limited to the corporate tax rate, which would probably have less deficit impact and where there's already a rough consensus for action based on proposals made by former President Barack Obama.

Each of these options has big downsides.

The easiest to discard is the last idea: cuts in business taxes but not rates paid by individuals. Mainstream Republicans like Senator Rob Portman of Ohio acknowledge that's a political non-starter. Also, Trump likes to blast Obama, not build on his ideas.

It's also too limited to fulfill longstanding Republican ambitions. White House economic aide Gary Cohn and House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady have separately told Democrats that they planned to go "big" on a taxing-and-spending package. Brady said the tax component would be revenue-neutral, meaning that it wouldn't widen or shrink the deficit. But that pledge is undermined by a vow to measure the effects

based on "dynamic scoring," Washingtonspeak for the dubious assumption that tax cuts would generate enough economic growth to provide higher revenue at lower rates. In theory, it all would be completed by August.

Republicans are hoping that some Democrats who like loophole closing and infrastructure spending will buy into this approach. But assembling a bipartisan coalition will be "very difficult," said Representative Richard Neal of Massachusetts, the ranking Democrat on the Ways and Means Committee. He said that Democrats will demand tax cuts that don't favor the wealthy, a goal made much more difficult by Republican insistence on eliminating the estate tax — an action that benefit only the rich without generating economic growth. Cohn and Brady vowed that lots of deductions for high-end taxpayers would be eliminated; Democrats are skeptical.

They're even more skeptical about striking a deal with Trump, whom they don't trust and who is deeply unpopular in most of their districts.

Trump is boasting about a \$1 trillion, job-creating infrastructure plan, which he says Democrats will have to support. Capitol Hill Republicans say it could be financed through a tax on overseas profits that U.S. companies have stashed abroad to avoid the 35-percent federal corporate tax rate. The total is about \$2.5 trillion, so a 10 percent tax, which is higher than Republicans advocate, would raise \$250 billion, still just a fraction of what Trump wants to spend on roads, bridges and airports. Republican plans to finance the rest privately, through tax credits and other incentives, is a losing proposition for most infrastructure experts, who say it won't produce much, and for Democrats who don't like the politics.

The alternative, then, is to pass a partisan bill through the budget process known as reconciliation. The Republican congressional majority can't do that before October because it already used the once-per-fiscal-year process in 2017 to move its failed Obamacare replacement plan forward. If Republicans can pass a fiscal 2018 budget reconciliation measure — a big if — then they could put together a tax bill that Senate Democrats couldn't stop. But under this procedure, the measure can't be a revenue loser after 10 years — meaning that the best Republicans could

By ALBERT R. HUNT

Bloomberg View

Albert R. Hunt is a Bloomberg View columnist. Readers may email him at ahunt1@bloomberg.net.



hope for would be temporary tax changes.

Republicans will find that while tax cuts are easy to enact, the reforms needed to balance their fiscal impact will prove almost impossible. (By definition there are winners and losers in tax reform and the losers make a lot more noise.) Brady claims the offsetting revenue will come from a Republican-sponsored proposal to tax most business sales except those from exports, but that idea is already dead politically.

The White House should look at the serious 2014 tax-reform proposal by former U.S. Rep. Dave Camp, the Michigan Republican who chaired the Ways and Means Committee at the time. He wanted to cut individual rates, including the top rate, condense seven tax brackets to three, and lower the maximum corporate rate to 25 percent.

But he also prescribed the medicine needed to pay for these cuts. He proposed an excise tax on big banks, a 10 percent levy on employer-provided health insurance, and curbs on write-offs for mortgage deductions, charitable giving and advertising. It was toxic to most House Republicans and went nowhere.

But White House and Congressional Republicans both need a win after the health-care disaster. So they'll probably forge ahead to cut taxes for 10 years by \$2 trillion to \$3 trillion, but without reforming the system or disturbing the Trump family's business interests.

Last week Trump told the Financial Times that there would be a "very massive and very strong tax reform." The paper noted that he's "holding his cards close." That's what you do when you hold a pair of threes.

Federalism formula, US role are keys to stabilizing Syria

U.S.-Russia relations have dipped to "an all-time low," in the words last week of a one-time Kremlin aficionado, President Donald Trump.

Trump made this assertion on same the day Secretary of State Rex Tillerson had a frosty meeting with Vladimir Putin. The Russian leader claimed the Syrian gas attack was a "provocation" by the United States and Syrian rebels — meaning we did it or faked it to undermine Syrian president Bashar Assad. (Yet Moscow vetoed a Security Council resolution that would have authorized a U.N. inspection.)

But then, of course, Putin trades in fake facts, claiming Russia never invaded Ukraine, never hacked the U.S. election, and never interfered in U.S. or European domestic politics. Never mind tons of irrefutable evidence to the contrary.

Which raises one of the most dangerous quandaries we face in this new political era. How do you deal with a nuclear-armed Russian leader who denies, even in private, the most basic facts about the issues? And yes, you know where this is leading. How can Trump rebuff the Kremlin's disinformation strategy when he copies the Putin playbook by promoting "fake facts" in his interviews and tweets?

The White House embrace of conspiratorial websites that promote outrageous lies feeds into Moscow's efforts to sow confusion in Western democracies on the issues. Many of those alt-right sites are parroting Kremlin-like explanations of the sarin gas attack in Syria.

Take one example: Alex Jones' "Infowars," an online radio show that is a favorite of Trump's. Jones blamed the gas attack on the White Helmets, a selfless group of Syrian civilian volunteers who rush to the scene of regime bomb attacks to try to rescue victims from the rubble. Here's the "Infowars" version: "The White Helmets, an al-Qaeda affiliated group (a grotesque and disgusting canard) funded by George Soros and the British government, have reportedly staged another chemical weapon attack on civilians in the Syrian city of Khan Shaykhun"

Trump has praised Jones as having "an amazing reputation" and appeared on his show during the presidential campaign. Jones also claims the 2012 Sandy Hook school massacre in Con-

necticut was a hoax, but despite pleas from families of the children killed there, Trump has yet to repudiate Jones.

And then there is Mike Cernovich, a gadfly who livestreams endless conspiracy theories and was recently touted by Kellyanne Conway. Donald Trump Jr. tweeted that Cernovich deserved a Pulitzer Prize (journalism's highest award). Never mind that Cernovich helped spread the "Pizzagate" fable that Hillary Clinton was running a pedophile ring out of a Washington Pizzeria, which inspired a believer to shoot up the joint. Now Cernovich says Assad was framed and suggests Sen. John McCain gave the Islamic State poison gas and Hollywood equipment to stage the attack.

This may all seem like baloney to you, but these websites have a huge audience, including Trump and White House staffers. And, as their response to the Syria strike shows, these conspiracy sites feed a climate in which facts become irrelevant and wild theories more attractive.

This climate of confusion is dramatically encouraged by the president's habit of labeling any views he disputes as "fake facts," thus further muddying the water for his voters about where truth lies, or whether there is any truth at all.

As the past week has shown, Trump is slowly coming to grips with, and wholly shifting positions on facts he had previously disputed — on North Korea, Chinese currency manipulation, Kremlin behavior (at least on Syria), etc. But his learning curve is steep, since — as he makes clear — he is resistant to detailed briefings, State Department expertise, or reading that informs him on critical topics.

Moreover, Trump's tendency to do 180-degree turns based on the last person he met (he said "10 minutes" with Chinese President Xi Jinping changed his take on North Korea) is unnerving. Moreover, his continued partiality to "fake facts" farms that proliferate on the web or cable TV make him susceptible to the disinformation wiles of the Kremlin.

Remember when Trump proclaimed "I love WikiLeaks" last October, indifferent to Moscow's machinations? The issue, which the president still won't address, was not Russian hacking per se, but the way the material was leaked and released to

By TRUDY RUBIN

The Philadelphia Inquirer

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an outfit willing to do Moscow's bidding, interfering with an American election.

"WikiLeaks walks like a hostile intelligence service and talks like a hostile intelligence service," said Trump's CIA director, Mike Pompeo, last week.

The conspiratorial websites so beloved of the president may not be as directly connected to the Kremlin, but Trump's encouragement of these "fake facts" factories has a similar impact. They feed into a climate of political uncertainty in America, which can be manipulated by Moscow.

After all, the president still refuses to confront the reality that some of his campaign staff had dicey contacts with Moscow that have prompted an FBI investigation. Even if they didn't decide the election, these contacts reflect an unprecedented level of Moscow interference in American political life.






If U.S. officials don't halt Russia's domestic meddling, this encourages Kremlin stonewalling on international issues. Yet no successful counterespionage program can be mounted if the president denies Kremlin intervention in the elections.

"This shouldn't be a big issue for a healthy democracy," said Dimitri Trenin, head of the Carnegie Endowment's Moscow Center, at a Council on Foreign Relations conference last week in New York. "Hacking is nothing new. Putin is trying to use information to influence political processes."

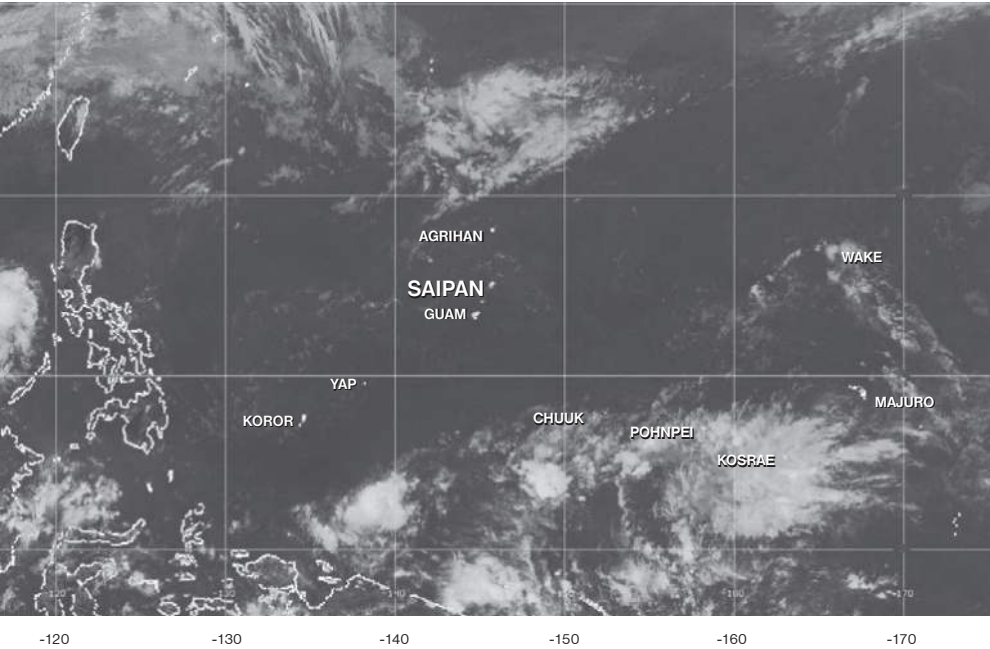
But a healthy democracy requires the president to recognize reality and seek out facts rather than grab on to wild theories. When there is no agreement on basic political facts inside the White House, it is far harder to confront Moscow's lies.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Variable clouds with scattered thunderstorms.	Sunshine and clouds mixed.	Partly cloudy in the morning followed by scattered thunderstorms in the afternoon.	Sun and a few passing clouds.	Mostly sunny early. Scattered thunderstorms developing later in the day.
▲ 86° ▼ 77°	▲ 86° ▼ 78°	▲ 86° ▼ 78°	▲ 86° ▼ 78°	▲ 86° ▼ 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 4:43 AM, MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2017

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The generally dry pattern continues over the Marianas through the week, with the moisture confined to the lowest levels. No significant changes were made to the forecast. the TUTT cell to the east will approach the islands on Tuesday and could bring some thunderstorms, even though the latest models are less indicative of this possibility than the previous cycle. The availability of moisture was a limiting factor and appears even more so in the latest guidance. Both wind and seas are expected to decrease after Wednesday through the end of the week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	89 79 °F
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86 78 °F
Yap	Thunderstorms	85 72 °F
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86 80 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85 79 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85 80 °F
Majuro	Thunderstorms	83 80 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Sunny	68 55 °F
Beijing	Sunny	74 50 °F
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	85 75 °F
Honolulu	Cloudy	80 70 °F
London	Partly Cloudy	56 35 °F
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	74 59 °F
Manila	Thunderstorms	93 79 °F
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	71 49 °F
Miami	Cloudy	83 71 °F
New York	Sunny	61 44 °F
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	68 59 °F
Paris	Mostly Sunny	56 34 °F
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	71 49 °F
Rome	Rain	66 45 °F
Salem	Light Rain	62 42 °F
San Francisco	Cloudy	64 51 °F
Seoul	Light Rain	65 45 °F
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	75 57 °F
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	72 49 °F



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:57 AM	HIGH TIDE		1.64
6:37 AM	LOW TIDE		1.16
11:09 AM	HIGH TIDE		1.54
6:42 PM	LOW TIDE		0.16

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:01 AM	6:31 PM
Wednesday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM
Thursday	5:59 AM	6:32 PM
Friday	5:59 AM	6:32 PM
Saturday	5:58 AM	6:32 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	11:04 AM	-
Wednesday	12:13 AM	11:54 AM	-
Thursday	1:00 AM	12:45 PM	-
Friday	1:46 AM	1:37 PM	-
Saturday	2:32 AM	2:30 PM	-

NEWS DESK

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 25, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily	DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily	LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1	ZE581	10:15am	3:35pm	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily	OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily	TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
ZE582	4:25pm	8:35pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5	7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4
SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)				JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN			
7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7	7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:50am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN	UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM	PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM	UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR	UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM				
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM				
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 3, 4, 6	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UO42	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM	UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM	UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
				UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily			
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	SAIPAN TO TINIAN			SAIPAN TO ROTA		
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily			
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily	ROTA TO SAIPAN		
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily			
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily	4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily			
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily			
			5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily			

Athena McNinch named Truman Scholar

The University of Guam is proud to announce that Athena Eva McNinch has been named a 2017 Truman Scholar.

McNinch is the 18th Truman Scholar to be named from the University of Guam since the scholarship's creation. This year, only 62 Truman Scholars were selected nationwide. She will join the other scholars and receive her award in an official ceremony at the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum, Missouri on Sunday, May 28, 2017.

The Truman award is one of the most prestigious national scholarships in the United States. Recipients of the Truman Scholarship receive a \$30,000 scholarship toward graduate school and the opportunity to participate in professional development programming to help prepare them for careers in public service leadership.

Annually, candidates for the Truman Scholarship go

through a rigorous, multi-stage selection process. This year, there were 768 candidates nominated from 315 colleges and universities throughout the United States and the Territories. Nearly 200 finalists were interviewed in March and early April, and the final 62 were chosen.

The Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation was created by Congress in 1975 to be the nation's living memorial to President Harry S. Truman. The Foundation has a mission to select and support the next generation of public service leaders. The University of Guam was named a Truman Honor Institution in 2009 because of its dedication and successful track record to the Truman Foundation and the outstanding commitment of its young people in pursuit of careers in public service.

McNinch is currently a junior at the University of Guam and the first Truman Scholar from the University of Guam



Athena McNinch (center), a junior at the University of Guam, was recently named a Truman Scholar. UOG President Dr. Robert Underwood (left) and Congresswoman Madeline Bordallo (right) participated in the award announcement on Monday, April 10.

to double major in Public Administration and Criminal Justice. She is the daughter of Ronald and Rose McNinch.

Scholars from the University of Guam

- Athena, McNinch – 2017 Truman Scholar
- Rebecca Casimbon – 2015 Truman Scholar

- Jose Salas Cruz, Jr. – 2009 Truman Scholar
- Elvira Manglona – 2007 Truman Scholar
- Sahara June Defensor – 2006 Truman Scholar

List of the Truman

- JakinDee M. Aguon-Peréz – 2005 Truman Scholar
- Donna L. Gomez – 2001 Truman Scholar
- Mary Grace Mendoza-Lapid – 2000 Truman Scholar
- William B. Cruz-Jones – 2004 Truman Scholar
- Gena A. Rojas – 2002 Truman Scholar
- Jesse T. San Nicolas – 1990 Truman Scholar
- Duane M. George – 1989 Truman Scholar
- Demian M. Fitzgerald – 1988 Truman Scholar
- V. Lujan – 1986 Truman Scholar
- John Jerry Ignacio – 1985 Truman Scholar
- Marie T. Deloso – 1983 Truman Scholar
- Maria Nancy V. Guhit – 1979 Truman Scholar
- Joaquin V. Leon Guerrero – 1978 Truman Scholar

For more information on the Truman scholarship, visit <https://www.truman.gov> or contact UOG Truman Faculty Representative Dr. John J. Rivera at jrivera@triton.uog.edu. (UOG)

SHRM congratulates Guam's new Certified Professionals

The SHRM Guam Chapter congratulates three new SHRM Certified Professionals in Guam—Apolline San Nicolas, Tricia Scott, and Crystal Salas. In addition to having met the professional experience requirement, they passed the rigorous SHRM certification exam that assessed their knowledge, understanding of HR factual information and scenario-based situations, judgment, application, and decision-making skills.

San Nicolas is a Personnel Specialist IV at the Guam Community College. She has 13 years of work experience in Human Resources and possesses a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Guam.

Scott is a graduate of the Academy of Our Lady of Guam and is currently the Human Resources Assistant Manager at the Dusit Thani Guam Resort. She has over eight years of experience in the HR field, as well as a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a Human Resources Management Concentration from the University of Guam. Prior to joining Dusit Thani Guam Resort, Scott worked at BankPacific where her passion for HR began.

Salas is a UOG graduate with a Bachelors of Business Administration double concentration with Human Resources Management and International Tourism and Hospitality. A founding member of UOG's Entrepreneur Society, Salas is also published author, and on the U.S. National Dean's List in 2006 from Seattle University. Prior to joining the Guam Regional Medical City team as a Human Resources Business Partner, she served as an Insurance Agent and Office Manager. Salas is now focused on planning her upcoming wedding.

Rose Ayuyu Morales, SHRM Guam president shared, "the SHRM Guam Chapter is very proud of Guam's newest SHRM certified professionals. The SHRM Guam Board set a goal to increase the number of certified professionals on Guam by facilitating the exam preparation course and providing incentives for Guam's HR professionals. Our certification efforts promote the HR profession and demonstrates the knowledge and expertise of Guam's HR professionals. It is my pleasure to congratulate Apol, Tricia, and Cristal on their hard-work, dedication to the HR profession, and their hard-earned SHRM-CP certification."

For more information, please visit guam.shrm.org or call 489-8777. (PR)

HSC-25 responds to Santa Rita wildfire



US NAVY
Crew of the Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 MH-60S helicopter that assisted in containing a wildfire in Santa Rita, Guam on April 13.

SANTA RITA, Guam—Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 (HSC 25) assisted in containing a wildfire in Santa Rita, Guam on April 13.

As part of an ongoing relationship with local emergency services, HSC-25 was asked to support an emerging fire at around 5:30 p.m. on Thursday.

An MH-60S helicopter made 20 runs on the fire. The crew flew a total of 1.5 hours in support of the mission effectively fighting the fire away from the Naval Magazine and the nearby residential area.

The wildfire was contained at approximately 7:10 p.m. with 20 bucket loads



US NAVY
An MH-60S helicopter made 20 runs on a wildfire in Santa Rita, Guam on April 13.



US NAVY
The crew flew a total of 1.5 hours in support of the mission.

dropped on the forward advance of the fire totaling 8,400 gallons of water.

"We at HSC-25 are always glad to support Guam," said Lt. Cmdr. Wesley Johnson, aircraft commander of the crew who rendered assistance. "This is one example of the many missions the HSC community provides to support Guam and operations in the 7th Fleet area of operations from humanitarian aid, disaster relief to combat operations. The crew performed superbly and I'm proud of the Island Knight team."

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055/3209. (PR)

Business

Seafood joins fair trade revolution, a scallop at a time

PORTLAND, Maine (AP)—Fair trade coffee, bananas and ... scallops? Yes, very soon.

Fair trade certification status, which is conferred by independent groups to denote environmental sustainability and fair working conditions, has been around for years. But it's just now on the rise among seafood products in the U.S., where consumer interest in the story behind the fish and shellfish they eat is growing.

Certification of seafood products, including tuna and shrimp, began in 2014, and the volume of imports of such products grew more than 350 percent last year to more than 1.2 million pounds (500,000 kilograms), said Fair Trade USA, a California-based non-profit group. The first company to offer fair trade seafood harvested from U.S. waters will have scallops on the market this month.

The company, Bristol Seafood of Portland, Maine, is looking to capitalize on the growing interest in authenticity of seafood, said its president, Peter Handy.

"There's a certain sanctity to food when it comes to the story about it," he said. "It tastes better the more you know."

Independent groups, including Fair Trade USA, provide certifications to a host of products that people buy in stores, ranging from fruit and nuts to home goods. The certification is most commonly associated with coffee, which launched the fair trade movement in the 1990s.

To achieve certification,



AP
In this undated photo provided by Christopher Cary, Rick Elliott of Bristol Seafood in Portland, Maine, examines a bag of scallops at auction in New Bedford, Mass.

companies need to submit to an audit and interviews to make sure the food is produced with fair working conditions and environmental stewardship along the supply chain. Packaged products can then bear a "Fair Trade Certified" seal, which carries a price premium.

Fair Trade USA currently certifies shrimp from Mexico, yellowfin tuna from Indonesia, and skipjack and yellowfin tuna from Maldives. It is the only group currently certifying seafood as fair trade, representatives for the nonprofit said.

Interest in the seafood supply chain has grown since an

Associated Press investigation of slave labor conditions in Thailand's shrimp fishery, said Ashley Apel, senior manager of the seafood program for Fair Trade USA. Even before that, a 2014 study by a pair of economists from the University of Kentucky said more than 80 percent of consumers were at least somewhat influenced by labels that tell the story of seafood.

"It was the right place and right time to show that the seafood industry needs a fair trade certification," Apel said.

The standards for achieving the certification for seafood products focus on manage-

Deadline for filing tax returns is Tuesday this year

WASHINGTON (AP)—Hey, procrastinators: Don't freak out if you haven't finished your taxes. The IRS is giving you a reprieve until Tuesday.

The usual April 15 deadline falls on Saturday this year. That would normally push the deadline to Monday. However, Monday is a holiday in the District of Columbia, so by law, the filing deadline is extended until Tuesday.

Monday is Emancipation Day in the District of Columbia. It marks the day in 1862 in which 3,100 slaves living in Washington were freed.

All the states that usually have an April 15 deadline have delayed their filing date as well. A handful of states have later deadlines.

The IRS has already processed 101 million individual returns and has issued \$229 billion in refunds. The average refund is \$2,851.

The tax agency said Thursday that nearly 40 million taxpayers have yet to file their returns. Taxpayers can request an automatic six-month extension.

But there is no extension for paying your tax bill. If you owe additional taxes, they are still due Tuesday.

"With the tax deadline approaching, taxpayers shouldn't panic. The IRS has many options available to help people as they finalize their tax returns or if they need to get extra time to file," said IRS Commissioner John Koskinen.

As last-minute filers rush to finish their taxes, their chances of getting audited have rarely been lower.

The number of people audited by the IRS in 2016 dropped for the sixth straight year, to just over 1 million. The last time so few people were audited was 2004. Since then, the U.S. has added about

30 million people.

The IRS blames budget cuts as money for the agency shrank from \$12.2 billion in 2010 to \$11.2 billion last year. Over that period, the agency has lost more than 17,000 employees, including nearly 7,000 enforcement agents. About 80,000 people work at the IRS.

In 2016, the number of people audited by the IRS dropped by 16 percent from the year before. Just 0.7 percent of individuals were audited, either in person or by mail. That's the lowest audit rate since 2003.

The higher your income, the more likely you are to be audited. The IRS audited 1.7 percent of returns that reported more than \$200,000 in income. Agents audited 5.8 percent of returns that reported more than \$1 million in income.

Both audit rates were steep declines from the year before.

A couple lessons in emotional intelligence

Q: One of my co-workers refuses to act like a team player. "Tony" automatically opposes any suggestion I make to improve operations in our retail store. Recently, Tony and I disagreed about how to train a new employee. Now I seem to be in trouble with my boss and don't understand why.

On the new worker's first day, I told Tony to switch departments with her so that she could learn some new skills. Tony refused and began arguing with me. When we called our manager, he sided with Tony, even though my plan clearly made more sense.

Because I couldn't handle all this dysfunction, I asked to take the rest of the day off. My boss let me go but said we "needed to have a talk." This makes it sound like I did something wrong. I'm feeling betrayed and unappreciated and don't think I can continue working with Tony. What's your opinion?

A: I'll be glad to share my thoughts, but you're not going to like them. Your manager wants to talk because you made two serious errors.

First, you clearly overstepped your bounds by directing your colleague to change departments. As a co-worker, you had no authority to make that decision. Before implementing a plan that affected Tony, you should have gotten your boss's approval.

Second, when your manager overruled this move, you

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By **MARIE G. MCINTYRE**
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

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reacted like a sulky child and said you wanted to go home. Now you say you can't work with Tony, obviously forgetting that you don't get to choose your co-workers.

Based on these examples, you feel strongly entitled to have things go your way, a narcissistic trait that could prove to be your downfall in this job. Or any other job, for that matter.

Q: As a manager, I always strive to maintain a professional demeanor in discussions with employees. But when critical and judgmental people try to twist the meaning of my words, I tend to freeze and shut down. This ends the conversation and keeps me from achieving my objective. What can I do about this?

A: Losing control of discussions signifies a lack of "management presence," which means being comfortable and confident in your leadership role. When negative emotions arise, managers who possess this quality simply recognize them, put them aside and calmly con-

tinue toward their goal.

The most common emotional distractors are anger and anxiety. While hothead bosses must learn to calm down, timid types, like yourself, need to become more assertive. So when someone tries to divert you by distorting your remarks, say, "That's not what I meant," and then repeat your comments and refocus the conversation. Although this may feel uncomfortable at first, with a little practice it will soon become a habit.

Q: Regarding the question about the former Marine who said military training made asking for help seem like weakness, I couldn't disagree more. In the Marine Corps, teamwork is instilled from boot camp, and go-it-alone guys are not well-regarded. Marine Corps teamwork is legendary, so this guy's problem is his own. Semper Paratus.

A: I appreciate your comment. Transitioning to a civilian job may require some adjustments, but teamwork should not be one of them.

Nation

Border wall could leave some Americans on ‘Mexican side’

BROWNSVILLE, Texas (AP)—The last time U.S. officials built a barrier along the border with Mexico, they left an opening at the small road leading south to Pamela Taylor’s home on the banks of the Rio Grande.

Taylor hadn’t been told where the fence would be built, and she doesn’t know now whether officials are coming back to complete it.

“How would we get out?” asked Taylor, 88, sitting in the living room of the home she built with her husband half a century ago. “Do they realize that they’re penalizing people that live along this river on the American side?”

Taylor’s experience illustrates some of the effects that the border wall President Donald Trump has imagined could have on residents in the Rio Grande Valley, the sunny expanse of bilingual towns and farmland that form the southernmost point of the U.S.-Mexico border. The wall could seal some Americans on the “Mexican side”—technically on U.S. soil, but outside of a barrier built north of the river separating the two countries. Landowners could lose property, and those that already lost some for the existing fence are already preparing for a new battle.

Even if they don’t win, lawyers hope to tie up the wall in court long enough that politics could effectively stop it, either in Congress or after another election.

“That’s a fight that we’ve been ready to fight,” said Efrén Olivares, a lawyer with the Texas Civil Rights Project.

The U.S. government will



This Thursday, Feb. 16, 2017, file photo shows a section of the border fence along the U.S.-Mexico border in Brownsville, Texas. AP

select finalists to build pieces of wall in San Diego, then choose a company to complete the rest. Ron Vitiello, chief of the U.S. Border Patrol, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that a new barrier will eventually be built in the Rio Grande Valley, where sections of rust-colored poles 18 feet (5.5 meters) high already run through neighborhoods in Brownsville and nearby towns. Vitiello told an audience in San Antonio that the government plans to complete a wall or fence in towns that have long been under consideration.

“There will likely be (barriers) there if all of the plans come together, but I can’t tell you where,” he said.

Trump said he would build the wall to stop migrants entering illegally and what he described as a flow of drugs and crime. The Border Patrol makes more apprehensions along the more than 300 miles (483 kilometers) of border in the Rio Grande Valley than anywhere else.

In and around Brownsville, people have lived next to the river for generations, and residents of both sides cross

bridges to work or shop daily. Taylor and others who live closest to the river routinely see border crossers walking up to their homes.

Many people living in the valley say the fence doesn’t work, and there’s widespread opposition there to a bigger wall. While the region is one of the Texas Democratic Party’s few strongholds in a deeply conservative state, many people here resent outsiders and politicians of both parties for using the border as a talking point. The 2006 law authorizing a fence passed with sup-

port from many Democrats, including then-Sen. Hillary Clinton, who lost to Trump in November.

When the U.S. government built the fence, it had to take hundreds of landowners to court to use its power of eminent domain. That’s because unlike in other southern border states, most Texas border land is privately owned, and tough terrain and water use agreements with Mexico meant some fence was built a mile or more north of the river.

With court fights also expected over Trump’s wall, the

Texas Civil Rights Project has begun signing up landowners and identifying people who might be affected.

Under the U.S. Constitution, the government must prove it wants to seize land for public use and must offer a landowner “just compensation.” While challenging the wall’s “public use” would be difficult, those who believe they’re not getting the full value of their land could take the case to court, setting up trials that could take years.

Antonio Reyes said he’s seen people scale the border fence that bisects his backyard and jump down in seconds. Sometimes they carry bales of what appear to be drugs.

A higher wall is “still not going to stop them,” he said. “They’ll shotput it or whatever they have to do.”

In Roma, a town of 10,000 people, a visitor standing on the bluffs overlooking the Rio Grande can see traffic moving across a tiny bridge and hear chickens clucking on the Mexican side. The Border Patrol occasionally uses blimps to monitor traffic, with agents stationed nearby.

Juan Moreno, a 64-year-old retiree, recalls surveyors measuring his neighborhood several years ago for a fence, although it was never built in Roma.

He credits Border Patrol agents for monitoring the border and providing much-needed business for stores in Roma. But he chuckled when asked about the wall.

“I don’t know if I’m going to be in the U.S. or Mexico,” he said. “It’s up to Trump.”

Mass transit advocates hope for boost from highway collapse

ATLANTA (AP)—The collapse of an interstate in the heart of Atlanta has more than 2 million metro residents sitting in even more traffic in the already congested city, and mass transit advocates hope the headaches will spur new interest in expanding rail and bus routes.

Many commuters come from surrounding counties that have long resisted mass transit, creating a car-centric region shaped by issues of race and class for more than four decades.

Georgia transportation officials hope to reopen Interstate 85 by mid-June after a 350-foot span came crashing down March 30 amid intense heat from a fire set beneath the roadway.

Until then, 250,000 drivers who depend on that route each day are stretching the limits of Atlanta’s other highways and surface roads, or using the region’s transit system at unprecedented levels. Ridership has gone up 20 percent since the collapse.

Skeptics of expanding mass transportation in metro Atlanta wonder whether residents of such a sprawling region will leave their cars behind barring a crisis of this magnitude.

Georgia lawmakers created the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority in 1965, envisioning a system to serve the counties that made up metro Atlanta at the time.

Police urge man who livestreamed homicide to turn himself in

CLEVELAND (AP)—An Ohio man claimed to be angry at a woman when he shot and killed an elderly passerby Sunday afternoon while streaming the murder on Facebook. Police urged the suspect to turn himself in, but he remained on the loose into the night.

Law enforcement officials identified the suspect as Steve Stephens, and Cleveland Police Chief Calvin Williams said officers were searching for him in the Cleveland area and beyond.

The victim was identified as 74-year-old Robert Goodwin Sr.

In the video, which appears shaky, Stephens gets out of his car and appears to randomly target Goodwin, who was holding a shopping bag. Stephens says the name of a woman, whom Goodwin does not seem to recognize.

“She’s the reason that this is about to happen to you,” Stephens told Goodwin before pointing a gun at him. Goodwin can be seen shielding his face with the shopping bag.

Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson publicly urged Stephens to turn himself in to police and not to “do any more harm to anybody.”

“Any problems he is having, we can have a conversation,” Jackson said.

In a separate video, Stephens claimed to have killed more than a dozen other people. Williams said police have not verified any other shootings or deaths.

“There are no more victims that we know are tied to him,” he said. The chief also said they’ve been talking with family and friends of Stephens, who is employed at Beech Brook, a behavioral health

agency headquartered in Pepper Pike, near Cleveland.

“We are shocked and horrified and we don’t know anything more about it,” agency spokeswoman Nancy Kortmeyer told WOIO-TV. “We hope and pray that he is arrested as soon as possible and we hope and pray for a resolution quickly.”

It was not immediately known what Stephens does for the agency, which said it will serve more than 18,000 children and families this year, according to its website.

Authorities said Stephens broadcast the video live on the social media network Sunday afternoon. It was up for about three hours before it was removed. Stephens Facebook page also has been removed.

This is not the first time Facebook Live has been used to broadcast violence or death. In

January, four people in Chicago were arrested after they allegedly beat and taunted a mentally disabled man live on the social media site. Then in March, a 15-year-old Chicago girl was apparently sexually assaulted by five or six men or boys on Facebook Live, and none of the roughly 40 people who watched the live video reported the attack to police, authorities said.

“This is a horrific crime and we do not allow this kind of content on Facebook,” said a spokesperson for Facebook. “We work hard to keep a safe environment on Facebook, and are in touch with law enforcement in emergencies when there are direct threats to physical safety.”

Police say Stephens should be considered armed and dangerous.

The FBI is assisting in the investigation.

Asia

Trump: China, US working on 'N. Korea problem'

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—President Donald Trump asserted on Sunday that China was working with the United States on “the North Korea problem,” and his vice president told American and South Korea service members that the North’s latest “provocation,” a failed missile launch shortly before his arrival in Seoul, laid bare the risks they face.

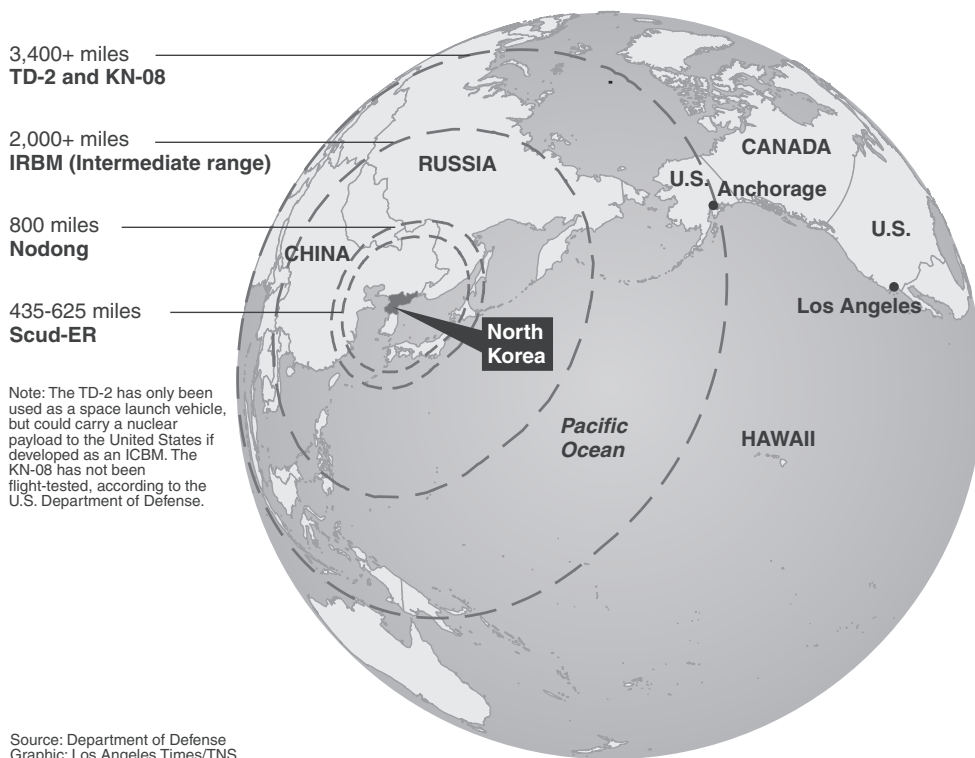
While the North did not conduct a nuclear test, the specter of a potential escalated U.S. response trailed Pence as he began a 10-day trip to Asia amid increasing tensions and heated rhetoric. Trump’s national security adviser cited Trump’s recent decision to order missile strikes in Syria after a chemical attack blamed on the Assad government as a sign that the president “is clearly comfortable making tough decisions.”

But at the same time, H.R. McMaster said, “it’s time for us to undertake all actions we can, short of a military option, to try to resolve this peacefully.”

In a broadcast interview that aired on Sunday, McMaster said the U.S. would rely on its allies as well as on Chinese leadership to resolve the issues with North Korea. “I mean, North Korea is very vulnerable to pressure from the Chinese,” McMaster said on ABC’s “This Week.”

The bottom line, McMaster said, is to stop the North’s weapons development and make the Korean Peninsula nuclear-free: “It’s clear that the president is determined not to allow this kind of capability to threaten the United States. And our president will take action that is in the best interest of the American people.”

Range of North Korean ballistic missiles



After a two-month policy review, officials settled on a policy dubbed “maximum pressure and engagement,” U.S. officials said Friday. The administration’s immediate emphasis, the officials said, will be on increasing pressure on Pyongyang with the help of Beijing.

The officials weren’t authorized to speak publicly on the results of the policy review and requested anonymity.

Pence will be tasked with explaining the policy in meetings with leaders in South Korea and Japan at the start of his trip, which will also include stops in Indonesia and Australia. He will also aim to reassure allies in South Korea and Japan that the U.S. will take appropriate steps to defend them against

North Korean aggression.

Pence was aboard Air Force Two flying over the Bering Sea when a North Korean missile exploded during launch on Sunday, U.S. and South Korean officials said. The high-profile failure came as the North tried to showcase its nuclear and missile capabilities around the birth anniversary of the North’s late founder and as a U.S. aircraft carrier neared the Korean Peninsula.

A White House foreign policy adviser traveling with Pence said no U.S. response to the missile launch was expected because there was no need for the U.S. to reinforce the failure. The adviser spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the administration’s initial understanding of the launch.

Trump, spending the Eas-

ter weekend at his Florida resort, reinforced his commitment to the armed forces under his control. “Our military is building and is rapidly becoming stronger than ever before,” he tweeted.

More directly on North Korea, the president returned to a theme of placing much onus on China for reining in the North. Last week, he said he would not declare China a currency manipulator, pulling back from a campaign promise, as he looks for help from Beijing, which is the North’s dominant trade partner.

“Why would I call China a currency manipulator when they are working with us on the North Korean problem? We will see what happens!” Trump tweeted on Sunday.

Deputy national adviser

K.T. McFarland briefed the president on the failed missile launch. She advised patience with China on the issue.

“North Korea is a liability to everybody and it’s a threat not just to the United States, not just to South Korea, not just to Japan, not just to Russia, but it’s actually a threat to China as well,” McFarland said Sunday on “Fox News Sunday.”

Into this tense environment, Pence made his first trip to the region since taking office in January. After arriving in the South Korean capital, he placed a wreath at Seoul National Cemetery and then worshipped with military personnel at an Easter church service at the U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan.

During a fellowship meal after the services, he said the tensions on the Korean peninsula had put into sharp focus the importance of the joint U.S.-South Korean mission.

“This morning’s provocation from the North is just the latest reminder of the risks each one of you face every day in the defense of the freedom of the people of South Korea and the defense of America in this part of the world,” said Pence. “Your willingness to step forward, to serve, to stand firm without fear, inspires the nation and inspires the world.”

Along with the deployment of the U.S. aircraft carrier and other vessels into waters off the Korean Peninsula, thousands of U.S. and South Ko-

Death toll in Sri Lanka garbage mound collapse rises to 26

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—The death toll from the collapse of a massive garbage mound near Sri Lanka’s capital rose to 26 on Sunday, and activists said 20 more people could still be buried underneath the debris.

Maj. Gen. Sudantha Ranasinghe, who is heading the rescue efforts, said authorities were struggling to determine exactly how many people were trapped under the debris. Lawyer and activist Nuwan Bopage, who worked with local residents in protests to have the garbage dump removed, said about 20 were trapped.

Military spokesman Roshan Seneviratne said 26 deaths have been reported so far and military personnel were still searching the site in Meetotamulla, a town outside Colombo, the capital. They were speaking to survivors to determine how many were missing, he said.

The mound collapsed Friday evening as people were

rean troops, tanks and other weaponry were deployed last month in their biggest joint military exercises. That led North Korea to issue routine threats of attacks on its rivals if they show signs of aggression.

The White House foreign policy adviser traveling with Pence told reporters that the type of missile that North Korea tried to fire on Sunday was medium-range, and that it exploded about 4 to 5 seconds after it was launched.

The North regularly launches short-range missiles, but is also developing mid-range and long-range missiles meant to target U.S. troops in Asia and, eventually, the U.S. mainland.

The failed launch will sting in Pyongyang because it came a day after one of the biggest North Korean propaganda events of the year—celebrations of the 105th birthday of late North Korea founder Kim Il Sung, the current leader’s grandfather.

According to the White House adviser, the test had been expected and the U.S. had good intelligence both before and after the launch. The official said, without elaborating, that had it been a nuclear test, “other actions would have been taken by the U.S.”

North Korea has conducted five nuclear tests, including two last year. Recent satellite imagery suggests the country could conduct another underground nuclear test at any time.

celebrating the local new year. Ranasinghe said 78 houses were destroyed and more than 150 were damaged.

A resident who identified himself only as Sanjaya said that he and others were searching for three neighbors—an elderly man, his daughter and granddaughter—who were buried under the collapse.

Twelve people who were injured remained hospitalized.

The site has been used to dump Colombo’s garbage for the past few years as authorities sought to give the capital a face-lift. But residents living in tiny homes in the area have protested against all the waste being dumped there because of health hazards.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said Saturday that the government would soon remove the garbage dump.

He said 625 people whose homes were either destroyed or faced threats because of the collapse were being housed in nearby schools.

Tension spikes over N. Korea, but Pyongyang barely notices

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—The clouds of war, it might seem, are gathering around the Korean Peninsula.

The North Korean government flaunts an increasingly sophisticated arsenal of intercontinental missiles and launches a midrange version, which apparently fails seconds after takeoff. The U.S. moves an immense warship to the waters off the peninsula in a display of military might. President Donald Trump warns he’s ready to “solve North Korea,” while North Korea’s deputy foreign minister says his country will conduct its next nuclear test whenever it sees fit.

And in Pyongyang, where war would mean untold hor-

rors, where neighborhoods could be reduced to rubble and tens of thousands of civilians could be killed, few people seem to care much at all.

On Sunday, the city’s zoo was crowded, playgrounds were full of children and families strolled along downtown sidewalks speckled with the falling blossoms of apricot trees. At the city’s annual Kimilsungia flower show—held to celebrate Saturday’s 105th anniversary of the birth of North Korea’s founding ruler, Kim Il Sung, and the purple orchid named for him—thousands crowded around the displays, many using cellphones to take photos of friends and family.

In a country where the pro-

paganda is all-encompassing, and where the same family has held power for three generations, every display mixed bright flowers with reminders of Kim Il Sung or the nation that his grandson, Kim Jong Un, now rules. So there were dioramas of Kim Il Sung’s birthplace, photos of him meeting foreign leaders, paintings of new housing developments—and models of missiles.

And there was Chong Ok An, a retiree pushing her way through the crowds with her family.

“We’re not afraid,” she said. “As long as we have Marshall Kim Jong Un we can win any fight.”

Her response reflected the phrasing of North Ko-

rean propaganda, as well as the reality that every person here has heard talk of war for decades. The Kim family has entrenched its rule by portraying the country as being relentlessly under siege, leaving its people unable to distinguish between daily hyperbole and the reality of an increasingly tense situation.

The same unending hyperbole has affected South Koreans as well. They have heard North Korean warnings of their destruction for so long that the threats barely even register.

While interest in North Korea spikes immediately after a missile launch, within hours internet search traffic is again dominated by TV comedy shows, taxes and real estate.

World

Turkey votes to expand president's powers

ISTANBUL (AP)—Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan won a historic referendum Sunday that will greatly expand the powers of his office, although opposition parties questioned the outcome and said they would challenge the results.

With nearly all ballots counted, the “yes” vote stood at 51.41 percent, while the “no” vote was 48.59 percent, according to the state-run Anadolu Agency. The head of Turkey’s electoral board confirmed the “yes” victory and said final results would be declared in 11-12 days.

Although the margin fell short of the sweeping victory Erdogan had sought in the landmark referendum, it could nevertheless cement his hold on power in Turkey and is expected to have a huge effect on the country’s long-term political future and its international relations.

The 18 constitutional amendments that will come into effect after the next election, scheduled for 2019, will abolish the office of the prime minister and



A supporter of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan holds a placard that reads “don’t worry, the world can be our enemy” in Ankara, Turkey, late Sunday, April 16, 2017.

Erdogan branded officials in the two nations as Nazis for not allowing his ministers to campaign for the expatriate vote there.

“We want other countries and organizations to show respect to the decision of our people. We expect countries that we accept as our allies to show more sensitivity to our fight against terrorism,” he said.

Opponents had argued the constitutional changes would give too much power to a man who they say has shown increasingly autocratic tendencies. Opposition parties complained of a number of irregularities in the voting, and were particularly incensed by an electoral board decision announced Sunday afternoon to accept as valid ballots that did not bear the official stamp.

“The Supreme Electoral Board changed rules mid-game, after the ballot envelopes were opened, in a way contrary to laws,” said Kemal Kilicdaroglu, head of the main opposition People’s Republican Party. Earlier, the party’s vice chairman, Erdal Aksunger, said it would challenge between 37 percent and 60 percent of the ballot boxes and accused Anadolu’s results of being inaccurate.

WORLD BRIEFS

Somalia forces shoot dead 2 militants in attack near airport

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—A Somali police officer says security forces shot dead two Islamic extremist fighters who were involved in a mortar attack in the Somali capital early Sunday. Security forces pursued and clashed with armed men who had fired mortar shells near Mogadishu’s international airport, said Capt. Mohamed Hussein. Two of the insurgents were killed, he said. The attackers detonated a minibus they were travelling in, he said. No other casualties from the blast have been reported. “Information provided by the people has led to the killing of these thugs who inflicted harm to many people in this neighborhood,” said Mohamed Abukar Islow, Somalia’s security minister.

Hundreds march against far-right French presidential hopeful

PARIS (AP)—Hundreds of demonstrators in France marched on Sunday to protest far-right National Front leader and presidential candidate Marine Le Pen, saying that basic freedoms would disappear if she were elected. Some protesters threw firebombs at police during the march from suburban Aubervilliers to a Paris neighborhood where Le Pen is scheduled to hold a rally on Monday. Officers

responded with tear gas during the small skirmishes. Fernanda Marrucchelli said Le Pen’s anti-immigration party “is fighting our essential freedoms, our rights, no matter if we are French or immigrant.” A banner at the front of the march read “Paris-Suburbs Against the National Front. Marchers handed out tracts denouncing xenophobia and racism that they allege Le Pen and her anti-immigration party represent.

Egypt acquits American woman detained for 3 years

CAIRO (AP)—An Egyptian court on Sunday acquitted Aya Hijazi, a dual U.S.-Egyptian citizen who has been held in detention for nearly three years over accusations related to a non-governmental organization she founded to aid street children. Authorities arrested Hijazi, her husband and six others in May 2014 on charges of abusing children that were widely dismissed as bogus by human rights groups and senior U.S. officials, who called for her release. The arrests came as part of a wider clampdown on civil society especially following the military overthrow of an elected Islamist president in 2013. Prosecutors provided little if any evidence to support the allegations. U.S. Rep. Don Beyer of Virginia voiced his joy and relief for Hijazi’s release in a statement. “This wonderful news was a long time coming,” he said.

hand sweeping executive powers to the president.

Erdogan, who first came to power in 2003 as prime minister, had argued a “Turkish-style” presidential system would bring stability and prosperity to a country rattled by a failed coup last year that left more than 200 people dead, and a series of devastating attacks by the Islamic State group and Kurdish militants.

In his first remarks from Istanbul after the vote count showed the amendments win-

ning approval, Erdogan struck a conciliatory tone, thanking all voters no matter how they cast their ballots and calling the referendum a “historic decision.”

“April 16 is the victory of all who said ‘yes’ or ‘no,’ of the whole 80 million, of the whole of Turkey,” Erdogan told reporters in a live televised address.

But he quickly reverted to a more abrasive style when addressing thousands of flag-waving supporters in Istanbul.

“There are those who are belittling the result. They

shouldn’t try, it will be in vain,” he said. “It’s too late now.”

Responding to chants from the crowd to reinstate the death penalty, Erdogan said he would take up the issue with the country’s political leaders, adding that the question could be put to another referendum if the political leaders could not agree.

He also took a dig at international critics. During the referendum campaign, Ankara’s relations soured with some European countries, notably Germany and the Netherlands.

Mass evacuation in Syria postponed after blast kills 80 kids

BEIRUT (AP)—The evacuation of more than 3,000 Syrians that was scheduled to take place Sunday from four areas as part of a population transfer has been postponed, opposition activists said, a day after a deadly blast that killed more than 120 people, many of them government supporters.

The reasons for the delay were not immediately clear. It came as shells fired by the Islamic State group on government-held parts of the eastern city of Deir el-Zour wounded two members of a Russian media delegation visiting the area, according to state-run Syrian news agency SANA.

Russia is a main backer of Syrian President Bashar Assad and Russian journalists enjoy wide access in government-held parts of the country.

Russia’s Anna-News military news service, which employs the journalists, said one was wounded in the arm while the other suffered leg and stomach wounds. The news service said the two were evacuated adding that their

condition was “satisfactory.”

The United Nations is not overseeing the transfer deal, which involves residents of the pro-government villages of Foua and Kfarya and the opposition-held towns of Madaya and Zabadani. All four have been under siege for years, their fate linked through a series of reciprocal agreements that the U.N. says have hindered aid deliveries.

Rami Abdurrahman, who heads the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, and Hezbollah’s Al-Manar TV, earlier said that 3,000 people will be evacuated from Foua and Kfarya, while 200, the vast majority of them fighters, will be evacuated from Zabadani and Madaya.

Abdurrahman and opposition activist Hussam Mahmoud, who is from Madaya, said the evacuation has been delayed. Abdurrahman said no permission was given for the evacuation to go ahead while Mahmoud said it has been delayed for “logistical reasons.”

It was not immediately clear if the evacuees feared attacks similar to Saturday’s bombing.

Abdurrahman said Saturday’s blast—which hit an area where thousands of pro-government evacuees had been waiting for hours—killed 126. He said the dead included 109 people from Foua and Kfarya, among them 80 children and 13 women.

No one has claimed the attack, but both the Islamic State group and the al-Qaida-affiliated Fatah al-Sham Front have targeted civilians in government areas in the past.

A wounded girl, who said she lost her four siblings in the blast, told Al-Manar TV from her hospital bed that children who had been deprived of food for years in the two villages were approached by a man in the car who told them to come and eat potato chips. She said once many had gathered, there was an explosion that tore some of the children to pieces.

Anthony Lake, UNICEF’s executive director, said in a

statement Sunday that after six years of war and carnage in Syria “there comes a new horror that must break the heart of anyone who has one.”

“We must draw from this not only anger, but renewed determination to reach all the innocent children throughout Syria with help and comfort,” he said.

After the blast, some 60 buses carrying 2,200 people, including 400 opposition fighters, entered areas held by rebels in the northern province of Aleppo, Abdurrahman said. More than 50 buses and 20 ambulances carrying some 5,000 Foua and Kfarya residents entered the government-held city of Aleppo, Syrian state TV said, with some of them later reaching a shelter in the village of Jibreen to the south.

U.N. relief coordinator Stephen O’Brien said he was “horrified” by the deadly bombing, and that while the U.N. was not involved in the transfer it was ready to “scale up our support to evacuees.”

Focus

FUGITIVE

Mexican ex-governor moved to Guatemalan prison

By SONIA PEREZ D.
PETER ORSI
Associated Press



AP
In this photo released by the Guatemala National Civil Police (PNC), Mexico's former Veracruz state Gov. Javier Duarte poses for photos escorted by an agent of the Interpol office in Guatemala, left, and a Mexico federal agent at a court room in Panajachel, Guatemala, Saturday, April 15, 2017.

GUATEMALA CITY (AP)—A former governor who had become a symbol of government corruption in Mexico was transferred to a Guatemalan military prison on Sunday hours after being captured in a hotel following six months on the lam.

Ex-Veracruz state Gov. Javier Duarte looked pale and visibly tired as he was brought to the military base in Guatemala's capital guarded by two dozen police officers. Prosecutors in Mexico directed the Foreign Relations Department to request his extradition to his homeland, where he is wanted on suspicion of money laundering and organized crime.

Duarte, 43, captured Saturday in Panajachel, a picturesque tourist town on Lake Atitlan in Guatemala's highlands, with the cooperation of that country's police and Interpol office, a statement from Mexico's federal Attorney General's Office said.

"I have no comment, thank you," the former Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, governor said to a question from The Associated Press as he entered the prison.

Duarte is accused of running a corruption ring that allegedly pilfered millions of dollars from Veracruz's coffers. State officials say schools, hospitals and other public institutions were stripped of resources under Duarte's government and that of his predecessor.

Manuel Noriega, deputy director of Interpol in Guatemala, said Duarte would be presented before a judge to

consider his possible extradition.

Political analyst Alejandro Hope said it is difficult to judge whether Duarte's capture—the second in a week of a high-profile, fugitive former PRI governor—will boost PRI President Enrique Pena Nieto's image in fighting corruption.

"In the best case it will give him a small boost in the short term but it also draws attention to the corruption of the governors," said Hope. And "he knows a lot of things about a lot of people."

Duarte was governor of Veracruz from 2010 until he left office Oct. 12, 2016, two months before the scheduled end of his term, saying he was doing so in order to face the allegations against him.

At the time he denied having links to phantom businesses that allegedly won state contracts, and said he had not stolen a single peso of state money or diverted government funds overseas.

"I don't have foreign accounts," he said last year. "I don't have properties anywhere."

Duarte promptly disappeared and

had been sought by Mexican authorities ever since. Earlier this year, Interpol issued a notice for his capture.

The Mexican government has found millions of dollars purportedly linked to Duarte, frozen more than 100 bank accounts and also seized property and businesses tied to the former governor. A reward of 15 mil-



AP
In this Aug. 5, 2016, file photo, the former Governor of Veracruz state, Javier Duarte speaks to reporters as he leaves the Attorney General's headquarters in Mexico City.

lion pesos (\$730,000) had been offered for his capture.

While on the lam, Duarte was supported by a network of Mexicans who helped him evade justice, Omar Garcia Harfuch, head of the Criminal Investigation Agency in Mexico's Attorney General's Office, told a press conference Sunday.

Garcia Harfuch said investigators "identified many homes, telephone numbers and vehicles related to people who supported Javier Duarte from Mexico City in the logistics of his stay and movement in Guatemala."

"During the investigation, it came to light that various private airlines offering services to the region were charged with transporting (Duarte) to different points in Guatemala," he said.

Authorities were tipped off to his presence in Guatemala by the Nov. 10, 2016 detention of a person at the airport in the border city of Tapachula. The person was carrying two passports with photographs of the ex-governor and his wife but with different names.

Garcia Harfuch did not provide the names of the people helping Duarte from Mexico City. But authorities in Mexico vowed to recover the money Duarte allegedly stole and bring to justice his accomplices.

"Justice will be done," said new Veracruz Gov. Miguel Angel Yunes, a bitter critic of Duarte. "Let there be no mercy for those who were merciless to the people of Veracruz. There will be no pardon."

The detention comes a week after

Tomas Yarrington, the former governor of Mexico's Tamaulipas state, was arrested in Italy, also on allegations of organized crime and money laundering.

Another ex-governor, Cesar Duarte of Chihuahua state, is also wanted on suspicion of corruption and is said to have fled to El Paso, Texas. He is not related to Javier Duarte.

All three ex-governors were members of Pena Nieto's ruling PRI.

The party, which expelled Javier Duarte on Oct. 25, 2016, and has sought to distance itself from him, applauded the arrest.

"The PRI calls for all the relevant investigations to be carried out and, respecting due process, for the ex-governor of Veracruz to be punished in an exemplary fashion, as well as anyone who is confirmed to have taken part in his criminal ring," the party said in a statement.

Duarte became a powerful symbol of alleged corruption during midterm elections last year in which the PRI lost several governorships, including Veracruz, that it had held uninterrupted since its founding in 1929.

Duarte also has been widely criticized for rampant violence in the state during his administration, as drug cartels warred for territory and thousands of people were killed or disappeared into clandestine graves in cases that mostly remain unsolved. The dead include at least 16 journalists slain in Veracruz during his six years in office.

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW:

Thankfully, the 2018 Lexus LC 500 isn't practical

By **LARRY PRINTZ**
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

As seen by our ongoing love affair with crossover SUVs, Americans are a practical bunch. Why not drive big with gas prices so low?

If only practicality weren't so boring.

Fortunately, for those seeking a vehicle that puts luxury and fun above function, there's the 2018 Lexus LC, a beguilingly beautiful drive-way accessory you'll never see hauling lumber on a home improvement show — even though, let's be honest, this zippy number will do far more to improve your life than any bathroom remodel.

The LC is the spiritual successor to the SC, which debuted shortly after Lexus did in the early 1990s. Long and lithe, the first-generation coupes had a sublime richness that oozed wealth. With the second generation, the car became a rather stubby hardtop coupe. While still suitably upscale, it somehow missed the mark and, after 2010, disappeared.

In many ways, the LC recalls the original SC in concept even as its design eschews the SC's classically quiet elegance for a kinetic, knife-edged sensuality. It simultaneously challenges and entrances your aesthetic sensibilities.

Built on Lexus' new GA-L — global architecture, luxury — platform, the LC is, like its

predecessors, a front-engine, rear-wheel-drive coupe. The LC500 gets a normally aspirated 5.0-liter V-8 matched to a 10-speed automatic transmission, while the hybrid 500h uses an Atkinson-cycle 3.5-liter V-6 connected to electric motors and a continuously variable automatic transmission. Choose the gasoline engine, and you'll have 471 horsepower under your right foot. The hybrid system, meanwhile, puts 354 ponies at your command.

It's no surprise that the gas-powered 500 is more fun to drive.

You'll be hooked from the moment you experience the symphony of its throaty roar. And the infatuation will only grow once you throw it into a corner and find it planted with a low center of gravity, more than retaining its composure as you put it through its paces. Its super-smooth suspension only sweetens the deal.

Rear-wheel steering is optional, but those who forgo it won't miss it. The car's agility is plenty impressive without.

The hybrid 500h, meanwhile, is much less entertaining, offering noticeably less power and a transmission that fails in trying to hide its continuously variable structure.

With either option, the LC's demeanor is more grand-touring car than purebred sports

machine, which makes it easy to live with. That aura's created in no small part by the opulent cabin, outfitted in an assortment of soft suede, stitched leather and refined metallic accents. Its design is particularly appealing, with a soft flowing look that echoes the exterior.

All will be pleasing until you open the trunk. There,

you'll find a ridiculously miserly 5.4 cubic feet of space.

But for those desiring something special, a flagship coupe that declares its impracticality in a sea of boring-but-good, the 2018 Lexus LC is the fresh-faced punk you've been waiting for. Just be sure and pack lightly.

Then again, you always were the practical type.

NUTS & BOLTS

■ **Base prices:** \$92,000 (V-8); \$96,510 (hybrid)
■ **Engine:** 5.0-liter V-8; Atkinson-cycle 3.5-liter V-6
■ **Horsepower:** 471; 354
■ **Fuel type:** Premium
■ **EPA fuel economy (city/highway):** Not available

■ **Wheelbase:** 113 inches
■ **Length:** 187.4 inches
■ **Cargo capacity:** 5.4 cubic feet
■ **Curb weight:** 4,280 pounds
■ **NHTSA rating:** Not rated

UNDER THE HOOD: Taillights probably not working as perfectly as you think

By **BRAD BERGHOLDT**
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Q: My Mom and Dad own a 2000 Toyota Camry with a four-cylinder engine, automatic transmission and about 35,000 miles on it. A light on the dash keeps lighting up, indicating the taillights are out. But they're not.

I did some searching online and found that this seems to be a common problem. One guy suggested taking the wire off the master cylinder. I tried that, and the taillight indicator did go out — until the car was driven again, that is. Any suggestions?

—Rick, Watsonville, Calif.

A: The lamp failure module in your folks' Camry will trigger the dash warning light if lower-than-specified electrical current is sensed in either

the taillight or brake light circuits. The most likely cause of this would be a burnt-out bulb.

Also possible: A loose, broken or corroded connection could be causing electrical resistance in one of the light circuits. Finally, an incorrect, lower-wattage replacement bulb could be to blame.

There are five brake light bulbs: Two on each side and the center-mounted stop lamp. Then there are four taillights.

Camrys are known for having issues with their taillight, brake and backup light wires near the left trunk hinge, where they bend and flex each time the trunk lid is opened and closed. These wires lead to the trunk lid-mounted lights. If a repair is needed, it's best to bridge across the flexing area with a length of new wire, making the necessary splices at least

6 inches away from the trunk hinge on each side.

My hunch is, upon careful inspection, you'll find one or more of the nine lamps dim or inoperative and correcting this will keep that warning light at bay.

Q: I recently purchased a new Mercedes-Benz GLE350. The dealer recommended that I take the vehicle in for service and an oil change around the 10,000-mile mark, saying it'll cost about \$350. I asked about tire rotation. They said it's not necessary, but if I really wanted it done, it'd cost \$100.

What's going on here? Any recommendations?

—M. Jackson

A: Nice vehicle, but yikes — that's a pretty big bill for a simple inspection and oil, filter and wiper blade change.

Synthetic Mercedes-Benz oil or Mobil 1 oil that meets

MB approval can be purchased for around \$8-9 per quart, and the engine holds 7.5 quarts. An oil filter runs \$10-15.

That said, while doing maintenance at the dealer isn't required, it does foster a good relationship, which will be helpful should warranty issues later arise. You might consider a heads-up Euro independent shop in lieu of the dealer but don't go to a quick lube place with such a techy vehicle.

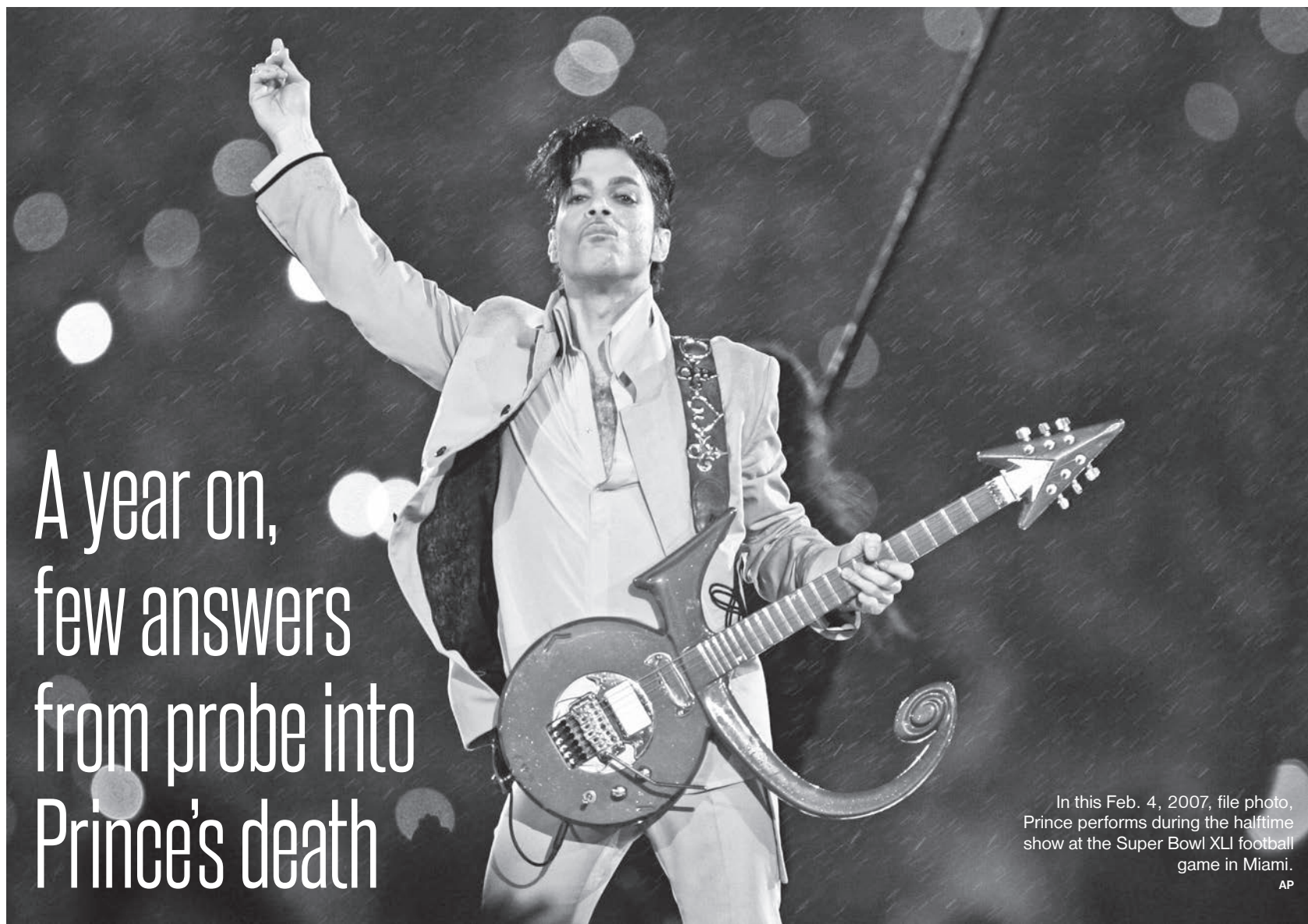
I don't see tire rotation in the vehicle's maintenance schedule either, but it's still good to do. Your directional tread tires — same size front and rear — would be rotated same-side front to rear. If the SUV is already racked for other service, \$100 is tough to swallow.

Mercedes lists stand-alone labor time for a tire rotation at 0.4 hours.



Powerful and fun to drive, the 2018 Lexus LC500 and 500h may not be overly practical, but is certainly never boring.

Life & Style



A year on, few answers from probe into Prince's death

In this Feb. 4, 2007, file photo, Prince performs during the halftime show at the Super Bowl XLI football game in Miami. AP

It's been nearly a year since Prince died from an accidental drug overdose in his suburban Minneapolis studio and estate, yet investigators still haven't interviewed a key associate or asked a grand jury to consider whether criminal charges are warranted, according to an official with knowledge of the investigation.

Prince was 57 when he was found alone and unresponsive in an elevator at his Paisley Park home on April 21. His death shocked fans and led to tributes worldwide. And news that he died of an overdose of fentanyl—a synthetic drug 50 times more powerful than heroin—surprised and saddened those who knew him as someone with a reputation for clean living.

Dozens of counterfeit pills were found in a search of Paisley Park, including at least one that tested positive

for fentanyl. Yet authorities still don't know the origin of those drugs and there has been no indication that they are poised to hold anyone responsible anytime soon.

Criminal justice experts say the pace of the investigation doesn't necessarily mean it's in trouble or that no one will ever be charged. They cite the complexity of tracking illegally obtained pills, the need to be sure before they issue subpoenas, and the high stakes for investigators and prosecutors, who don't want to suffer an embarrassing defeat in a high-profile trial.

"Federal prosecutors, especially, do not like to lose," said Gal Pissetzky, a Chicago-based criminal lawyer. "That is why they can take so long."

One key figure investigators want to interview is Kirk Johnson, a longtime drummer for Prince and the estate manager at Paisley Park who was among those who discovered

the musician's body. Johnson also was with Prince six days earlier when he fell ill on a flight home from a performance in Atlanta and had to be revived with two doses of an opioid antidote.

Experts say it's natural authorities would want to speak with Johnson, given his proximity to Prince. But Johnson hasn't talked to federal prosecutors, according to the official with knowledge of the investigation, who spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because the investigation is ongoing.

While authorities have the power to ask a grand jury to investigate and issue subpoenas for testimony, that step hasn't been taken, the official said.

Johnson's attorney, F. Clayton Tyler, confirmed that his client hasn't been subpoenaed. He would not confirm whether Johnson refused to speak with authorities since an initial interview with detectives in

the hours after Prince's death.

Johnson declined to talk to the AP. When pressed in a recent CBS interview to talk about Prince's final days, Johnson pointed to his head and said: "Kirk has a vault. Right here. It's never gonna be unlocked."

The official told the AP that investigators also haven't talked with Dr. Michael Todd Schulenberg since an initial interview after Prince's body was found. Schulenberg, who saw Prince on April 7 and again the day before his death, told a Carver County sheriff's detective he had ordered tests and prescribed medications for the musician. Those tests and medications haven't been disclosed.

Schulenberg's attorney, Amy Conners, confirmed that her client hasn't had any more requests from authorities.

That some Prince confidants or doctors haven't been interviewed shouldn't necessarily

raise red flags, Pissetzky said. Prosecutors typically want to be armed with enough incriminating evidence to put an interviewee on the spot, he said.

"They want to show a suspect that, even though there might be holes in the evidence, they have enough to make it look like they have you dead to center," he said.

Jeff Cramer, a former federal prosecutor in Chicago, said subpoenas aren't always the best tool. A person with useful information can exercise their right against self-incrimination if brought before a grand jury, and at that point the only way to get them to talk is to offer immunity.

"The last thing law enforcement wants to do is to potentially have to immunize somebody who could be the only target of the investigation," Cramer said. "At that point, there's no going back ... so chances are they are still running down some

leads before coming to that fateful decision."

Cramer said investigators are likely trying to uncover everything they can, and they need to get the drugs into a suspect's hands, either through a paper trail or witnesses. He said a year isn't an unreasonable length of time for the investigation. If questions remain six months from now, however, he said he'd question what law enforcement is doing.

Investigators have said little about the case over the last year, other than it is active. They have explored whether doctors illegally prescribed opioids that were meant to go to Prince and whether the fentanyl that killed him came from a black-market source online or on the street.

The official said the case has taken investigators to Illinois and California, as authorities have interviewed friends, family and any potential witnesses, including the flight crew and hospital staff that were present when Prince overdosed on a plane. They've also searched cellphone records, medical records and computers.

Most fatal opioid overdoses that are investigated never lead to criminal charges, said Kerry Harvey, a former U.S. attorney for eastern Kentucky who made prosecuting such cases a high priority. A common problem is that evidence gets destroyed by first responders focused on saving a life.

It's not clear whether this is a problem in Prince's case. Investigators' actions in the hours immediately after his death aren't entirely known, and search warrants—aside from one that was accidentally and briefly made public—have been sealed. The search warrant that was briefly public notes that first responders started CPR on Prince before determining he was dead.

Authorities conducted a second search more than two weeks after Prince died and recovered more evidence, including many of the counterfeit pills, the official said.

Search warrants executed by local authorities, likely including one from the first search of Paisley Park, are due to be unsealed Monday. (AP)

UK actor leaves behind 'TV version of acclaimed stage role

LOS ANGELES (AP)—British actor Tim Pigott-Smith left behind a TV adaptation of one of his most acclaimed stage performances, the title role in "King Charles III."

The drama starring Pigott-Smith, who died earlier this month at age 70, airs May 14 on PBS (check local listings for time and station).

The actor received Olivier and Tony award nominations for the London and New York runs of Mike Bartlett's play, which imagines the outcome after Charles inherits the British throne from his mother, Queen Elizabeth II. At 90, she is the nation's longest-reigning monarch.

Pigott-Smith already was a

stage and screen veteran when he gained international attention as a sadistic police officer in British-controlled India in the 1980s miniseries "The Jewel in the Crown," which also aired on PBS.

"King Charles III" co-stars Oliver Chris as Prince William and Charlotte Riley as his wife, Kate.

Bruce Langhorne, 'Mr. Tambourine Man' inspiration, has died

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Bruce Langhorne, an influential session guitarist who often collaborated with Bob Dylan and inspired his song "Mr. Tambourine Man," has died. He was 78.

Family friend Cynthia Riddle said Sunday that Langhorne died Friday at his home in Venice, Cali-

fornia, of kidney failure.

The musical prodigy was born in Tallahassee, Florida, but from the age of four lived in New York City's Spanish Harlem neighborhood with his mother. He studied classical violin before taking up guitar at age 17.

A mainstay of the Greenwich Village folk rock mu-

sic scene in the 1950s and 1960s, Langhorne played with the likes of Joan Baez, Gordon Lightfoot and Buffy Sainte-Marie, among others.

Langhorne is perhaps best known for his work on Dylan's "Bringing It All Back Home."

He's survived by his wife of 29 years, Janet Bachelor.

'Fast and the Furious' on road to record global debut

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The eighth installment in the “Fast and the Furious” is on the path to becoming the biggest worldwide debut of all time, besting both “Star Wars: The Force Awakens” and “Jurassic World.”

Universal Pictures on Sunday estimated that “The Fate of the Furious” would earn a record \$532.5 million worldwide over the holiday weekend, thanks to a particularly robust showing in 63 territories, including China.

If the figures hold, it will just

inch past the previous record holder, “Star Wars: The Force Awakens” which launched to \$529 million in December of 2015 without China.

The film broke the record for biggest international weekend ever, with \$432.3 million. The previous record holder was “Jurassic World” with \$316.7 million.

“There is no market that hasn’t had a strong reception,” said Duncan Clark, Universal’s president of international distribution. “Whatever culture, whatever language,



This image released by Universal Pictures shows, Chris “Ludacris” Bridges, seated left, and Nathalie Emmanuel, seated right, and Tyrese Gibson, standing from left, Scott Eastwood, Dwayne Johnson and Michelle Rodriguez in “The Fate of the Furious.”

very well. It’s still firing on all cylinders.”

The rest of the chart looked sleepy in comparison to the fresh fuel of “The Fate of the Furious.” “The Boss Baby” took second with \$15.5 million, while “Beauty and the Beast” held on to third place with \$13.6 million.

“Beauty and the Beast” crossed the \$1 billion mark worldwide this weekend. Rounding out the top five were “Smurfs: The Lost Village” with \$6.5 million and “Going in Style” with \$6.4 million.

The summer movie season really kicks into high gear in a few weeks when “Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2” goes into orbit on May 5.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

Mark Hamill says he'd like to play George Lucas in a movie

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
AP FILM WRITER

He’s played Luke Skywalker and the Joker, but Mark Hamill has one role he’d like to add to his resume: That of “Star Wars” creator George Lucas.

The actor said Sunday that he would love to play Lucas in a movie about his life when a fan at the Star Wars Celebration event in Orlando, Florida, asked him what

role he’d like to play.

Hamill’s voice was in rough shape after four days at the fan event but he still managed to affect a solid impression of his former boss.

During the one-man panel Hamill also recounted stories about Harrison Ford advising him not to ask permission ad-lib during filming and how he and the late Carrie Fisher once sneaked into a theater to see the 1977 “Star Wars” trailer.



In this Jan. 23, 2017 file photo, actor Mark Hamill poses for a portrait during the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.

whatever country, we seem to have found a home.”

The China opening alone brought in a record \$190 million followed by \$17.8 million from Mexico and \$17 million from the U.K. and Ireland.

An estimated \$100.2 million of the global total comes from 4,310 North American theaters—a second best for the franchise and enough to easily top the domestic charts, but well below the \$147.2 million opening of “Furious 7” in 2015.

“Furious 7” had a groundswell of additional interest due to the death of actor Paul Walker, who played cop turned street racer Brian O’Conner, a lead character in six of the films. He died in a car crash while the film was still in production.

For the studio, “Fast 8” stands on its own as being “an extraordinary result.”

“Each one of these films has its own momentum,” said Nick Carpou, Universal’s president of domestic distribution. “There are factors from one film to the next that make them unique and certainly there were unique factors with ‘Furious 7.’”

“The Fate of the Furious” has many of the returning

stars like Vin Diesel, Dwayne Johnson, Michelle Rodriguez, Tyrese and Ludacris, but has added some new elements behind the camera in director F. Gary Gray and in front of the camera with Charlize Theron.

The \$100.2 million is slightly below analyst expectations for the film. Audiences were 58 percent male, 50 percent under the age of 25 and diverse (41 percent were Caucasian, 26 percent Hispanic and 19 percent African American).

The studio has not released an official production budget, but it is reported to be in the pricey \$250 million range. However, an A Cinema Score from exit

polls suggest that it will have sufficient staying power.

The “Fast and the Furious” is a global juggernaut for Universal Pictures, which plans two additional pictures. With the addition of “Fast 8,” the franchise has earned an estimated \$4.4 billion globally.

“It is a franchise that has adapted and changed over the years and is as relevant in 2017 as it was in 2001,” noted Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for comScore. “The ‘Furious’ franchise perfectly represents what that global audience is all about. They’re poised perfectly for installments 9 and 10 to do

1. “The Fate of the Furious,” \$100.2 million (\$432.3 million international).	7. “Get Out,” \$2.9 million (\$1 million international).	2. “The Boss Baby,” \$36.8 million.
2. “The Boss Baby,” \$15.5 million (\$36.8 million international).	8. “Power Rangers,” \$2.9 million (\$2.7 million international).	3. “Beauty and the Beast,” \$22 million.
3. “Beauty and the Beast,” \$13.6 million (\$22 million international).	9. “The Case for Christ,” \$2.7 million.	4. “Smurfs: The Lost Village,” \$16.4 million.
4. “Smurfs: The Lost Village,” \$6.5 million (\$16.4 million international).	10. “Kong: Skull Island,” \$2.7 million (\$3.8 million international).	5. “A Chinese Odyssey Part Two: Cinderella,” \$12 million.
5. “Going in Style,” \$6.4 million (\$4.3 million international).	Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to comScore:	6. “Ghost in the Shell,” \$8.3 million.
6. “Gifted,” \$3 million.	1. “The Fate of the Furious,” \$432.3 million.	7. “Going in Style,” \$4.3 million.
		8. “The Shack,” \$4.1 million.
		9. “Kong: Skull Island,” \$3.8 million.
		10. “Power Rangers,” \$2.7 million.

Family nanny is conflicted about exposing dad’s bias

DEAR ABBY: I am a full-time nanny for a family with two children, ages 7 and 9. The mother is wonderful, and so are the kids. But the father, who is absent due to work travel most of the time, teaches his children attitudes I strongly disagree with. It is not often I must interact with him, but when I have, he says hateful things about people who are gay, obese or poor.

The children have now begun to repeat these comments, pointing out large people when we are in public, or saying nasty things about the homeless we see as we drive. I try to combat this hatred by sharing words of love or acceptance.

The mom is mortified when I tell her the things her children have said. She doesn’t share the same attitudes as her husband, but she works a lot and isn’t around to discuss things like this with her kids in the moment.

I feel like part of the family because I spend so much time with the children. But I wonder if I am overstepping my boundaries by admonishing them for saying things their father has taught them to believe. Is it my place to teach the kids lessons about acceptance that are contrary to what he tells them?

NANNY IN TAMPA

DEAR NANNY: The person to whom you should be addressing this question is the children’s mother. Whether I

think teaching the children compassion and tolerance is the right thing to do (which, by the way, I do) is not relevant. You should abide by her wishes because she is your employer.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 29-year-old female. I’m not married and have no kids. I’ve been dating a man who is 14 years older for two years now. He has no children.

We have talked about marriage and having children, but recently I found out he has no retirement savings. This scares me because I’m thinking about the future. If something were to happen to him and we were married, I’d be stuck with his debt.

I am at a loss. I don’t want to be the snobby woman who kicks him when he’s down and leaves him, but at the same time, I don’t understand why he hasn’t planned for retirement. Am I wrong for thinking this way?

CONTEMPLATING MY FUTURE
IN SANTA ROSA, CALIF.

DEAR CONTEMPLATING: If you don’t understand your boyfriend’s thinking on the subject of financial planning, continue discussing it with him until you do. He may not realize how important it is to plan, invest and save for the future. Many people older than he is are now having a

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

rude awakening about how long they will need to continue working until they have enough of a nest egg to retire. In many cases, it takes the effort of both spouses to accomplish it—if they can retire at all.

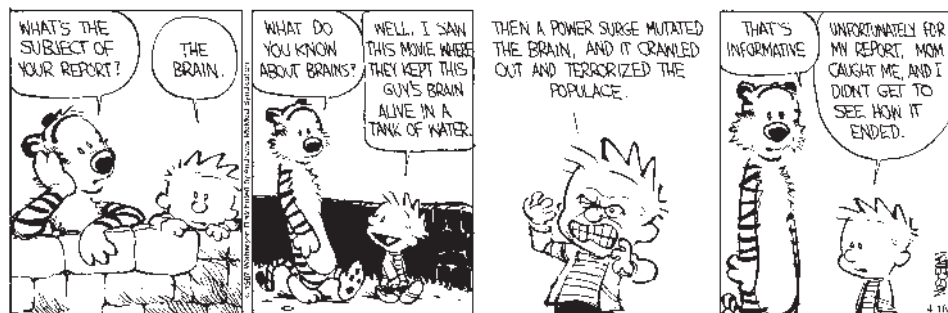
Please don’t call yourself names. I wouldn’t accuse you of being a “snob” because you’re thinking rationally on the subject of finances. I call that being sensible.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: “Abby’s Favorite Recipes” and “More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



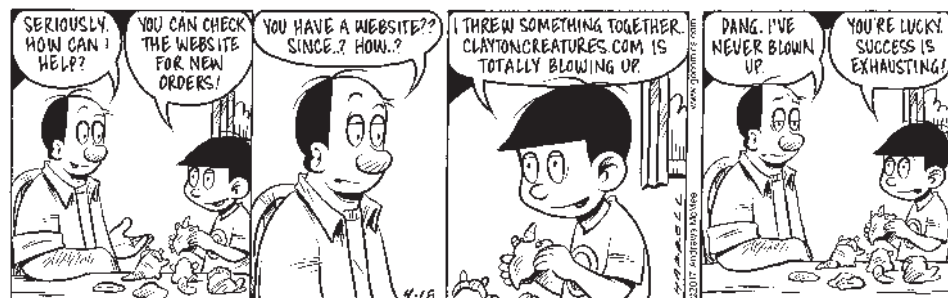
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Arrears
5 Passing craze
8 U2 lead singer
12 Skin soother
13 Paris pal
14 Bard's river
15 Hodge-podge
17 Richard of "Chicago"
18 Utter
19 Last (Abbr.)
20 Earth Day month
21 Quilters' get-together
22 Calendar abbr.
23 Big buttes
26 Kettle-drum
30 Crooned
31 Swindle
32 Idle of Monty Python
33 Scrooge-like
35 Take five
36 Before
37 Hosp. workers

DOWN

38 Harbor protector
41 Sock part
42 Mimic
45 Way out
46 Lunch container
48 Takeout order?
49 Occupation, for short
50 Titanic destroyer
51 Frozen desserts
52 Tofu source
53 Nile queen, familiarly

1 Lamb alias
2 Squarish
3 Golf prop
4 Aesopian story
5 Latin 101 word
6 Use a shovel
8 Killed musicians
9 Done with
10 Sushi wrapper
11 Scott Turow book
16 Club fees
20 Branch
21 French leaves
22 Shark feature

23 Flavor enhancer, for short
24 Listener
25 -cone
26 Play-thing
27 Exist
28 Actress Long
29 "Nasty!"
31 "Evita" narrator
34 Weep
35 Cauldron concoction
37 Hum-dinger
38 "Star Wars" knight
39 Corp. bigwig
40 Scrabble piece
41 Small corbino
42 First victim
43 Rid of rind
44 Waffle brand
46 Small ammo
47 "The Voice" network

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-18

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: America Ferrera, 33; Melissa Joan Hart, 41; Conan O'Brien, 54; Jane Leeves, 56.

Happy Birthday: Handle pressures using your experience and with an intent to bring about the changes that will make your life easier. Make alterations based on common sense and well-thought-out plans. Taking on too much or overreacting to situations that need to be handled with diplomacy will be your downfall. Your future depends on your ability to act responsibly and within reason. Your numbers are 5, 13, 24, 31, 39, 42, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Avoid negativity. Make an impression by offering optimism and original plans that will help you work around any pitfalls you encounter. Staying calm and being realistic will help you bring about the changes required to get ahead. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Weigh the pros and cons of any deal you are faced with and make your decision based on what makes the most sense. Make choices that lean toward quality, not quantity, and you will end up with the best of everything. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Test the waters before you dive in. Know what you are up against and prepare to meet each situation with integrity and the will to win. Partnerships should be re-evaluated and adjustments should be made to maintain equality. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): An emotional plea will sway someone to take a closer look at an idea or solution you have to offer. Step back from anyone who is acting im-

pulsive or unpredictable. Your mission should be to calm the waters, not make waves. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Emotional issues can be expected if you let one of your adversaries get to you. Rise above any conflicts you face and offer solutions and you will gather support and offset anyone's plans to make you look bad. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can force issues by discussing what you have to offer and how you plan to go about getting things done. A passionate approach will increase your chances of success. Negotiate on your own behalf and celebrate your victory with someone you love. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Change can be good, but not if it is made in haste or for the wrong reasons. Think matters through carefully before you jump into something that may be more complicated than you imagined. Don't overspend on something you can do yourself. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Be careful how you handle your peers. An emotional incident will raise questions about your integrity if you aren't careful. Don't mix business with pleasure. Make an effort to improve your physical and emotional well-being. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Emotional situations will lead to unexpected changes to your plans or how you treat someone close to you. Try not to jump to conclusions. Focus on accomplishing your professional goals, not letting personal matters cost you time and money. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll be at odds when dealing with people who are inconsistent. Don't take on too much because you don't have the confidence in someone else. Overseeing what transpires will help you maintain control without forgoing your own responsibilities. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put time and money into getting ahead personally. Take time to develop a skill or enhance your knowledge. Preparation will help you avoid disappointment. Don't take action until you are sure you can finish what you start. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Rely on old friends to pick you up and help you out. Overreacting or acting on an assumption will be what drags you down. Let the ones who love you the most be your guide to making the right decisions. ****

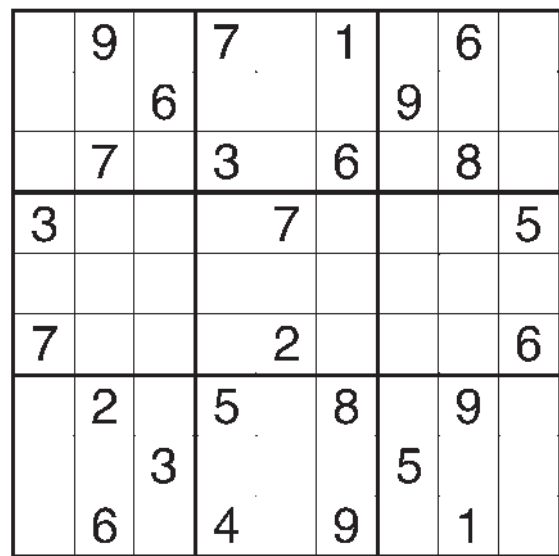
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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

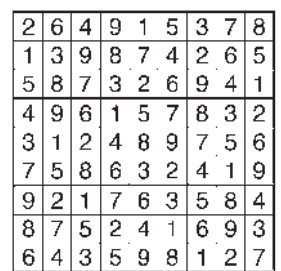


Difficulty Level ★★

4/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★

4/17

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By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

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Solution: 8 letters



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Yesterday's Answer: Lady Gaga
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Amendment to the Official Saipan Zoning Map (Rezone) for Fermina G. Shimizu

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking your comments on the following proposed amendment (rezone) to the Official Saipan Zoning Map. Fermina G. Shimizu is requesting to rezone Lot 1734New-4-R2 in Chalan Kiyu from "Rural" to "Village Commercial" zoning district to construct and operate a warehouse facility.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: May 18, 2017
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Zoning Board Conference Room
2nd Floor, Joeten Dan Dan Commercial Building

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, May 17, 2017. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

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SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 19, 2017 TIME: 11:00A.M.
BID OPENING DATE: APRIL 19, 2017 TIME: 11:30A.M.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission"), hereby give notice that the Commission has scheduled a meeting on Thursday, April 20, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library (Technology Room) in Susupe, Saipan.

The following Agenda will be discussed:

- PRELIMINARIES:**
 - Call to Order
 - Roll Call
 - Adoption of Agenda
- REPORTS:**
 - Report by the Chairman
 - Report by the Executive Director
- PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- OLD BUSINESS**
- NEW BUSINESS:**
 - Amendment to the Casino Regulations via Emergency Adoption:
 - \$175-10.1-815** (Cessation of Live Training Facility). An Order to extend, for good cause, the operation of the Live Training Facility.
 - \$175-10.1-635** (d) (Initial Gaming Facility). To amend §175-10.1-635(d) by deleting subsection (d) in its entirety.
- MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**
- EXECUTIVE SESSION:**
 - Report by the Legal Counsel
 - IPI Financial Matters
- ADJOURNMENT**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session. In addition, the Commission may extend its official meeting for another day or more if necessary.

Juan M. Sablan
Chairman

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Butler, Bulls rally past grieving Celtics in Game 1



BOSTON (AP)—The Chicago Bulls waited until the final night of the regular season to cement their spot in the post-season. Jimmy Butler made sure the wait for a playoff victory was a short one.

Butler had 30 points and nine rebounds and the Bulls outlasted top-seeded Boston 106-102 in Game 1 on Sunday on an emotional night for grieving Celtics star Isaiah Thomas.

Playing a day after 22-year-old sister Chyna Thomas was killed in a car accident in their home state of Washington, Thomas led the Celtics with 33 points. But Butler overcame a united Garden crowd and led Chicago to the victory, scoring 23 points in the second half.

"We were so locked in all week," Butler said. "We knew their stuff, just like they knew ours. But we executed extremely well. We haven't done that all season, but this is the right time to do it."

He also got a big lift from the Bulls' young reserves, who outscored their Boston counterparts 35-22.

Bobby Portis finished with 19 for the Bulls.

Chicago coach Fred Hoiberg lauded his team's defensive effort, particularly how it outrebounded Boston 53-36. He also had praise for the job Butler did defending Thomas late, after Rajon Rondo picked up his fifth foul.

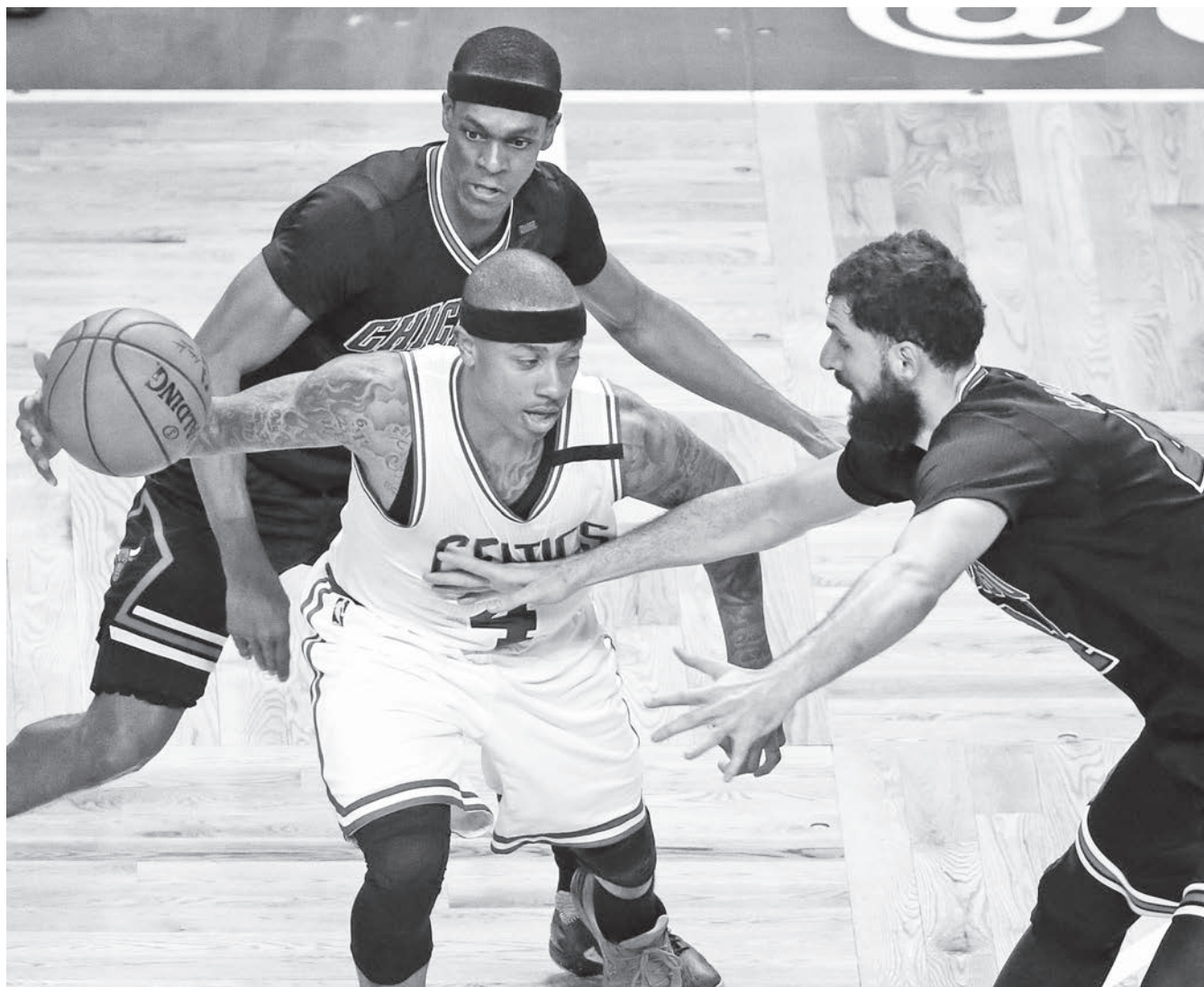
"Jimmy is obviously our best defender," he said. "Jimmy is going to have his turn to guard him."

Rondo said they wanted to be aggressive.

"I told the guys coming out it was going to be physical and we wanted to throw the first punch," he said.

Al Horford had 19 points, eight assists and seven rebounds for the Celtics. He was active throughout, coming up with several big baskets and assists to keep his team in the game.

Game 2 in the first-round series is Tuesday night in Boston.



Chicago Bulls' Rajon Rondo, behind, and Nikola Mirotic, right, defend against Boston Celtics' Isaiah Thomas (4) during the third quarter of a first-round NBA playoff basketball game, Sunday, April 16, 2017, in Boston.

Neither team had more than a two-possession lead until Butler made three free throws with 4 minutes to play to make it 95-88. Butler scored 10 straight points to put the Bulls back in front early in the fourth, the first of three lead changes in the fourth quarter.

Later, Thomas had a scary moment when he was hit on his left hand on a 3-point attempt before landing awkwardly on it. After a quick visit to the trainer, he calmly made all three free throws.

It was part of a stretch in which he scored seven straight points.

Celtics fans rallied behind Thomas, showering him with a deafening cheer when he was introduced.

Still, Thomas appeared to be a little emotional at the start of the game, badly missing his first free throw short off the front

rim. He wasn't the only Boston player a little off their game in the first half. Boston's second unit started the second quarter 1 for 7 from the field and was outscored 10-0 to surrender the Celtics' first-quarter lead.

The Bulls also had their moments of fallibility.

Late in the second quarter Wade intercepted an errant pass by Thomas, but got hung on the front of the rim as he attempted a dunk on the fast break.

Horford acknowledged afterward that emotions were tough for not just Thomas, but the entire team.

"We're never going to make excuses, but this is hard," Horford said. "This was difficult, and I felt like our guys really dealt with it best. We knew (Thomas) was hurting...we have a lot of respect for him that he was able to come out."

The Celtics took an 88-87 lead with 5:33 to go, before the Bulls went on a 14-4 run to push back in front. Boston got within two on a layup by Thomas with 7.5 seconds following a Chicago turnover, but Butler hit a pair of free throws to seal it.

Rockets 118, Thunder 87

In Houston, although James Harden is Houston's undisputed star, he can't top Russell Westbrook entirely on his own.

As is so often the case, Patrick Beverley was there for support Sunday night.

Harden scored 37 points to outshine Westbrook, and the Rockets pulled away in the third quarter and coasted to a 118-87 victory over the Oklahoma City Thunder in Game 1 of their first-round playoff series.

Harden had nine assists and seven rebounds, and Beverley, who had the unenviable task of guarding Westbrook, had a playoff career-best 21 points along with 10 rebounds.

Beverley's performance was nothing new to Harden, who has had a front row seat to his work for years.

"That's the reason we're in the position we're in," Harden said. "He brings it every game. Whether his shot is falling or not, he brings that intensity, that resolve. He was just Pat tonight."

The best-of-seven Western Conference series continues Wednesday night in Houston.

The third-seeded Rockets were up by 20 when Harden came off the bench with about seven minutes remaining. He went right to work—making two 3-pointers to power a 10-0 run and push the lead

to 110-80 with 4 1/2 minutes left. Harden, who along with Westbrook is a front-runner for MVP, went to the bench, and both teams cleared their benches soon after that.

Westbrook had 22 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists, but made just 6 of 23 shots and had nine turnovers for the sixth-seeded Thunder.

Warriors 121, Trail Blazers 109

In Oakland, Kevin Durant had 32 points and 10 rebounds in his Golden State playoff debut, Stephen Curry scored 29 points, and the Warriors withstood a sensational day by Portland duo CJ McCollum and Damian Lillard in Game 1.

McCollum scored a playoff career-best 41 points, and Lillard had 34, but the Warriors made the crucial big plays on both ends down the stretch with Portland playing without injured center Jusuf Nurkic.

Draymond Green contributed 19 points, 12 rebounds, nine assists and five blocked shots to help last season's second-place team take the first step in what it is counting on to be a championship run.

Durant shot 12 for 20, showing no issues with a recent left knee injury that sidelined him 19 games before he returned for the final three regular-season contests with the NBA-best Warriors.

Game 2 is Wednesday night in Oakland.

Wizards 114, Hawks 107

In Washington, John Wall scored a playoff career-high 32 points and Markieff Morris added 21 in his NBA postseason debut to help Washington beat Atlanta in Game 1.

Wall scored 15 points in the third quarter and finished with 14 assists. Bradley Beal had 22 points, and the Wizards got enough from their top players to offset 25 points from Atlanta's Dennis Schroder and 19 from Paul Millsap. Dwight Howard had 14 rebounds but just seven points.

Game 2 is Wednesday night in Washington.

NBA players' union fires back at Jackson for Carmelo comments

NEW YORK (AP)—The National Basketball Players Association fired back at New York Knicks president Phil Jackson on Saturday, issuing a strong statement of opposition regarding his recent statements regarding 10-time All-Star Carmelo Anthony.

"We voiced with the commissioner (Adam Silver) today our view on the inappropriate comments by

Knicks president Phil Jackson," NBPA executive director Michele Roberts said in a statement. "If players under contract cannot, under threat of league discipline, speak openly about their desire to be employed elsewhere, we expect management to adhere to the same standards. The door swings both ways when it comes to demonstrating loyalty and respect."

On Friday, Jackson—who had the final two seasons of his five-year deal picked up before season's end—told reporters that Anthony—who has two years left on his contract, which has a no-trade clause—would be better off playing somewhere else.

"We've not been able to win with (Anthony) on the court at this time," said Jackson, who made a habit out of

publicly insulting Anthony this season as his team went 31-51 and missed the playoffs by 10 games. "I think the direction with our team is that he's a player that would be better off somewhere else and using his talent somewhere where he can win or chase that championship."

Roberts, who was a renowned defense attorney before becoming the NBPA

executive director in late July 2014, has shown a consistent willingness to have her players' backs. This situation is no different, with Roberts well aware that players run the risk of being fined if they make public trade demands or share a desire to play elsewhere.

For Anthony's part, he has taken the high road almost every time when the acrimony grew between him and

Jackson. Yet not long after Jackson's latest comments, Anthony posted a picture of actor Leonardo DiCaprio from the 2004 movie, *The Aviator*, with the caption, "REALLY" and laughing emoticons.

Yes, 'Melo. This latest evidence of Knicks dysfunction, just like each and every one that came before, is entirely real.

Frazier homers, Pirates beat Cubs for 3-game sweep



CHICAGO

(AP)—For the first time in a while, the Pittsburgh Pirates enjoyed their visit to Wrigley Field.

Adam Frazier hit a clinching home run as the Pirates scored six times in the final two innings to beat the Chicago Cubs 6-1 Sunday for a three-game sweep of the World Series champions.

"We came in struggling. It was big for us to get these three wins," Frazier said.

The Pirates went 4-14 against the Cubs last season, including 1-8 in Chicago. Their previous three-game sweep at the ballpark was in September 2014.

"It was important for us to come here and play good baseball," Pirates manager Clint Hurdle said. "We didn't play well here last year. They played really well."

Jameson Taillon (1-0) allowed an unearned run and struck out six in seven innings. Cubs starter Jon Lester pitched three-hit ball for seven innings and left with a 1-0 lead.

The Pirates scored three times in the eighth off Koji Uehara (0-1), getting the go-ahead run when pinch runner Alec Hanson slid home on Andrew McCutchen's bases-loaded grounder -- a replay review upheld the call that catcher Willson Contreras was barely off the plate when he caught first baseman Anthony Rizzo's throw on an attempted force play.

"That's been more of our problem than anything, not getting a clutch hit and holding a lead at the end of the game," Cubs manager Joe Maddon said.

Frazier hit a three-run homer in the ninth.

Tommy La Stella's pinch-hit double off Frazier's glove in left field put the Cubs ahead in the seventh. Chicago loaded the bases on a walk before Taillon got Rizzo to pop out to end the inning.

Taillon has given up three runs in 20 innings. Last season, he had the second-lowest ERA (3.38) among NL rookie starters.

Nationals 6, Phillies 4

In Washington, Bryce Harper hit a two-run homer in the third inning and a game-ending, three-run drive with two outs in the ninth, leading the Washington Nationals over the Philadelphia Phillies 6-4 on Sunday.

Harper's first home run, off Jerad Eickhoff, broke a 1-1 tie. His second, the fourth walkoff homer of his big league career, overcame a 4-3 deficit against Joaquin Benoit (0-1).

Shawn Kelley (2-0) relieved with the bases loaded in the



Chicago Cubs catcher Willson Contreras attempts to force out Pittsburgh Pirates' Alen Hanson (37) as he slides safely into home plate after Andrew McCutchen grounded into a fielders choice during the eighth inning of a baseball game, Sunday, April 16, 2017, in Chicago.

ninth and got Maikel Franco to ground into a force out.

Yankees 9, Cardinals 3

In New York, Greg Bird busted out of his slump with a long home run that began a perfect night at the plate, and Michael Pineda pitched New York past staggering St. Louis for its seventh straight victory.

Aaron Hicks also hit a homer and Aaron Judge was robbed of one by a fan in the bleachers, forcing the young Yankees bopper to settle for an RBI triple. New York chased Adam Wainwright (0-3) in the fifth and finished a three-game sweep that left St. Louis at 3-9, the worst record in the National League and its poorest start since 1988.

Pineda (2-1) went seven innings in a sharp follow-up to his dominant outing last Monday, when he retired the first 20 Tampa Bay batters and struck out 11 over 7 2/3 innings for an 8-1 victory in New York's home opener.

Braves 9, Padres 2

In Atlanta, Bartolo Colon (1-1) allowed one hit over seven innings in the Atlanta home debut for the 43-year-old: Ryan Schimpf's second-inning homer

Brandon Phillips had three hits and three RBI as Atlanta improved to 3-0 at new SunTrust Park and extended its winning streak to four after a five-game skid.

Trevor Cahill (0-2) gave up four runs, four hits and three walks in 5 2/3 innings. He was activated before the game after recovering from a back strain.

Orioles 11, Blue Jays 4

In Toronto, Trey Mancini

homered twice for the second time in three games, a three-run shot off Ryan Tepera in the sixth and a solo drive off Matt Dermody in the eighth. Mancini, who finished 3 for 5 with four RBI, matched the major league record for home runs in the first 12 games of a career with seven, joining Trevor Story and Dino Restelli.

Dylan Bundy (2-1) gave up five hits in six shutout innings

Toronto lost left-hander J.A. Happ (0-3) to a sore elbow in the fifth inning, another blow to a suddenly thin starting rotation.

Marlins 4, Mets 2

In Miami, rookie J.T. Riddle hit a two-run homer against Addison Reed (0-1) with two outs in the ninth.

Marlins starter Dan Straily and three relievers didn't allow a hit until Neil Walker singled with two outs in the eighth. Miami won the final three of a four-game series.

Pinch-hitter Asdrubal Cabrera tied the score in the ninth with a two-out, two-run single off David Phelps (2-1).

Tigers 4, Indians 1

In Cleveland, Matthew Boyd (2-1) allowed one run in six innings, and Alex Avila hit a two-run homer.

Carlos Carrasco (1-1) made his first appearance against Detroit since his right hand was broken by Ian Kinsler's line drive in September. Carrasco gave up two runs, four hits and five walks in 6 2/3 innings. He struck out five, including Justin Upton three times.

Cleveland went 14-4 against Detroit last year as it won the AL Central.

Brewers 4, Reds 2

In Cincinnati, Ryan Braun hit a go-ahead, two-run homer, and Eric Thames added a solo shot for his fifth home run of the series as Milwaukee won for the fifth time in six games.

Sal Romano (0-1) started in place of injured Rookie Davis and lasted three innings in his major league debut. The 23-year-old right-hander allowed four walks, three hits and three runs.

Left-hander Brandon Finnegan became the fourth Reds starting pitcher to go on the disabled list and is expected to miss at least a month because of a strained left shoulder.

Red Sox 7, Rays 5

In Boston, Mitch Moreland hit a go-ahead, two-run single in the seventh off left-hander Xavier Cedeno after Boston, trailing 5-4, loading the bases against Danny Farquhar (0-1).

Pablo Sandoval had a two-run homer for the Red Sox, who won their second straight after losing five of eight.

Joe Kelly (2-0) allowed one hit in 2 2/3 scoreless innings, and Craig Kimbrel struck out two in a perfect ninth for his fifth save.

Royals 1, Angels 0

In Kansas City, Alcides Escobar hit an RBI single in the ninth off Cam Bedrosian after Salvador Perez's leading single against Blake Parker (0-1).

Kelvin Herrera (1-0) threw an eight-pitch flawless ninth after Ian Kennedy pitched two-hit ball and struck out 10 over eight innings.

Kansas City has won four straight, the Los Angeles has

lost five in a row.

Rockies 4, Giants 3

In San Francisco, rookie Antonio Senzatela (2-0) settled down after a rough first inning, holding San Francisco scoreless on four hits over the next six to win his second straight start.

Charlie Blackmon led off the game with a homer, and Nolan Arenado celebrated his 26th birthday with a two-run double to cap a three-run first as the Rockies took three of four in the series.

Senzatela allowed three runs and seven hits in seven innings, and Greg Holland pitched a perfect ninth for his seventh straight save this season.

Jeff Samardzija (0-3) struck out eight while allowing four runs in seven innings.

White Sox 3, Twins 1

In Minneapolis, Avisail Garcia had a career-high four hits, including an opposite-field, two-run homer to right off Ryan Pressly (0-2) in the 10th inning.

Nate Jones (1-0) struck out two in a perfect ninth, and David Robertson fanned his first two batters in a 1-2-3 10th for his third save in as many chances.

Brian Dozier hit an inside-the-park home run for the Twins.

Diamondbacks 3, Dodgers 1

In Los Angeles, Taijuan Walker (2-1) struck out seven and allowed a run and four hits over five innings.

Los Angeles starter Rich Hill (1-1) was activated from the disabled list before this

start after missing time with a blister on his left middle finger, but he re-aggravated the blister and made it only three innings and 54 pitches before leaving. The left-hander allowed two runs, five hits and two walks and struck out two.

Chris Iannetta hit a solo homer off Hill in the third inning, and five batters later, Hill walked Jake Lamb with the bases loaded for a 2-0 Arizona lead. Paul Goldschmidt singled in another run in the seventh inning.

Fernando Rodney pitched the ninth for his fourth save.

Mariners 8, Rangers 7

In Seattle, Nelson Cruz singled in the tiebreaking run to cap a two-run, ninth-inning rally, and Seattle overcame a 6-1 deficit to complete a three-game sweep.

Nomar Mazara gave Texas a 7-6 lead when he led off the ninth against Edwin Diaz (1-1) with his fourth homer.

Mitch Haniger walked against Sam Dyson (0-3) with the bases loaded and Cruz hit a sharp bases-loaded grounder up the middle. While Elvis Andrus snagged the ball with a dive, the shortstop's off-balance glove flip to second was off line.

Seattle rebounded on Haniger's three-run homer in the third, Danny Valencia's RBI single in the sixth and Guillermo Heredia homer opening the seventh. Haniger preserved the tie in the eighth with a leaping catch at the top of the wall in right-center to rob Joey Gallo of a potential two-run homer.

Shin-Soo Choo had a three-run homer in the second and two-run double in the third.

EPL title race heats up as Manchester United tops Chelsea

MANCHESTER, England (AP)—A tactical masterclass from Jose Mourinho ensured the path to the English Premier League title will no longer be a procession for his former club, Chelsea.

Only four points separate Chelsea and second-placed Tottenham with six games left after Manchester United's 2-0 win over the lackluster leaders opened up the title race on Sunday. At one stage four weeks ago after a 2-1 win over Stoke, Chelsea held a 13-point lead.

It was a signature win for Mourinho near the end of his first season at United. He detailed Ander Herrera and Matteo Darmian to man-mark Chelsea forwards Eden Hazard and Pedro Rodriguez, made the bold call to start Marcus Rashford ahead of top scorer Zlatan Ibrahimovic, and played two youngsters—Rashford and winger Jesse Lingard—up front in a surprise move.

The decisions paid off brilliantly, with Rashford and Herrera scoring the goals and be-

ing the star performers at Old Trafford. Chelsea didn't have a shot on target in a league game for the first time in nearly a decade. Hazard barely had a meaningful touch.

"I think it was almost perfect," Herrera said.

Chelsea might be starting to wobble. This loss came 15 days after a 2-1 home defeat to Crystal Palace, while Spurs have won seven straight league games—scoring 22 goals in the process.

Chelsea's only tough remaining game appears to be a trip to Everton on April 30, and it could hardly ask for four better fixtures to finish the season: Middlesbrough, West Bromwich Albion, Watford and Sunderland.

Still, the pressure is certainly on the leaders now.

"We have to think that there are six finals from now until the end," Conte said. "The league is open and we have a 50 percent (chance) to win the league."

United was playing between two games against Anderlecht in the Europa League quarterfinals, with many pun-



ditions suggesting Mourinho's focus had switched to earning Champions League qualification through winning the European competition.

Dropping Ibrahimovic—United's top scorer this season

with 28 goals—was another sign of that, but Mourinho insisted he wasn't prioritizing.

United moved back into fifth place, four points behind fourth-placed Manchester City with a game in hand. The Man-

chester rivals meet at City's Etihad Stadium on April 27.

Liverpool, which beat West Bromwich Albion 1-0 away in Sunday's other game, is six points clear of United in third place but has played two

AP
Chelsea's Gary Cahill, left, and Manchester United's Zlatan Ibrahimovic challenge for the ball during the English Premier League soccer match at Old Trafford stadium in Manchester, Sunday, April 16, 2017.

more matches.

Offering more mobility than Ibrahimovic, Rashford tormented Chelsea's defense all game and showed there is a bright future at United if the Swedish striker decides to end his stay at Old Trafford after just one year.

Rashford opened the scoring in the seventh minute when he ran onto Herrera's pass behind David Luiz and sent a shot bobbling past goalkeeper Asmir Begovic.

Herrera looked to have handled the ball in the build-up to that goal but he wasn't penalized. And the midfielder made Chelsea pay even further when he drove in a shot that deflected off Kurt Zouma and span high into the net in the 49th.

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26-21, while Ali'i/Blue Haus successfully grabbed the driver's seat by the halftime break, 47-42.

Ali'i/Blue Haus leaned on its balance scoring to recover and survive the hot shooting of Ashburn. Five Ali'i/Blue Haus players broke into double figures, while three more added at least 8 points each. Elmer Esdreton paced Ali'i/Blue Haus with his 17 points.

Ashburn had a game-high 29 markers, while only Dan Barcinas backed him up, chipping in 20. Jack Lizama had 12 markers, but was scoreless in the second and third periods.

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Meanwhile, the boys U18 doubles crown will be contested by the pairs of Robbie Schorr and Ken Song and Vincent Tudela and Steven Goodwin after they downed similar foes in the opening week of the tournament.

Goodwin and Tudela were the first ones to top Andy Cho and James Kim after recording a 6-0, 6-0 victory last Saturday. Then last Sunday, it was Song and Schorr's turn to beat Cho and Kim, 6-1, 6-1. The boys U18 doubles title will be disputed this weekend.

In other results in Week 1 of Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association's last local competition for the 2016-2017

First Game

Stephen's Pawnshop 91—Flores 22, Rabasto 21, Dueñas 21, Aranda 15, Abuy 12.

Marianas Variety 73—P. Factor 18, Fital 18, Villarin 11, A. Factor 10, Devero 7, Pineda 4, Sablan 2, Supetran 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-15, 48-32, 73-54, 91-73.

Second Game

Ali'i/Blue Haus 90—Edrelon 17, Peredo 12, De Dios 13, Guiab 12, Demapan 10, Barbo 9, Pagarao 8, Talania 8, Garcia 2.

SSFM 80—Ashburn 29, Barcinas 20, Lizama 11, Palino 8, Libuw 4, Hammond 4, Santos 2, Kapileo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-26, 47-42, 69-58, 90-80.

season, Hoo Wang and Nason Wassel boosted their chances to win the girls and boys U10 singles crowns after prevailing in their respective games last weekend.

Wang finished Week 1 of the round-robin contest in the girls U12 singles with a 2-0 record after defeating Dana Lee, 8-4, and Soarin Oh, 9-7. She will go for the sweep and the division title against La Mee Lam this weekend. Oh has yet to play in the tournament, while Oh saw action in two games, winning her other match against Lee, 8-1.

In the boys U12 singles, Wassel outclassed Sam Cope, 8-2. Wassel will duel La Hunn Lam this weekend and another victory will give the former the division championship.

Once just a trick-shot star, Bryan rising fast on PGA Tour

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C. (AP)—Wesley Bryan hadn't played in a PGA Tour sanctioned event 15 months ago. Now, he's a tour winner. What's changed?

"I do not know," Bryan said Sunday after winning his first tour title at the RBC Heritage, choosing to cite Will Ferrell's line from the movie *Anchorman*: "That escalated quickly."

Bryan got some attention for his internet trick shots, but had not done much in his mini-tour career after playing college golf at South Carolina until making the Web.com Tour and winning three times in his debut season last year. Bryan earned a promotion to the PGA Tour, and now he's got a trophy, the first South Carolinian to win the tour's lone stop in the Palmetto State.

"Honestly, I've got no idea," Bryan said. "It's still kind of surreal. Maybe one day I'll wake up and kind of realize what's gone on the last 15 months or so."

The capper came on Sunday when Bryan rallied from four strokes down when the round began for his breakthrough victory. He used four straight birdies on the front to get in the mix, then moved to the top with a birdie on the 15th hole.

Bryan made three steady, championship two-putt pars on the way in to maintain a one-stroke lead over Luke Donald.

Bryan, 27, steadied his nerves on the 72nd hole - the iconic, 18th lighthouse hole - and tapped in the final putt for the victory.

"It's one that I grew up dreaming on the practice green late at night when I was a kid," Bryan recalled. "Like this putt's to the win the Heritage. And to get it done here is one of the coolest experiences ever."

Meanwhile, William McGirt followed up a solid showing at the Masters last week with his best-ever finish at the RBC Heritage. McGirt shot four rounds in the 60s to finish at 11 under 273, two shots behind champion Wesley Bryan. Like Bryan, McGirt is a South Carolina native who grew up in Boiling Springs near Spartanburg. He was tied for 22nd in his first-ever tournament at Augusta National.

It was another close call at Harbour Town for Luke Don-

ald, who finished runner up here for the fifth time since 2009. Throw in a pair of third place finishes and that's seven top threes in his last nine visits here. While he's won \$3.7 million in career earnings here, Donald would desperately like to break through to victory. This time, it was Donald's 1-over 72 on Saturday that cost him.

Matt Kuchar used a Sunday charge two weeks in a row to make some noise on the leaderboard. Kuchar shot a 5-under 31 on the final nine holes at Augusta National to finish in fourth at the Masters. This time, Kuchar shot a 7-under 64 as an early starter Sunday at Harbour Town to climb to 11th—an improvement of 52 positions from where he ended Saturday.

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3-0 triumph over Wings FC Red last Sunday, while he contributed one in the Teen Ayuyus' 6-0 demolition of Wings FC Black last April 14. Joshua Deleon knocked in a pair of goals in the pool's first victory, while Mareko Tekopua, Alex Park, and Dai Podziewski chipped in one apiece. Quality Distributor handed the visiting squad its lone loss last Saturday, 1-0.

The pool had a training camp in Guam in preparation for its participation in the 2018 AFC U19 Championship Qualifiers, which will be held from Oct. 31 to Nov. 8 with the venues yet

to be announced. The CNMI is in the East Zone of the qualifiers and will be playing in Group D against Macau, Cambodia, Brunei, and Guam. Only the top finisher in each group will qualify to next year's finals.

Meanwhile, the CNMI U15 team bowed to Shanghai Jinshan District U15 Team, 0-7, in its first match in the EAFF competition last Sunday.

According to team manager Mikky Vargas, the Commonwealth players struggled in the bigger and grassy pitch at the Jinshan Sports Center, while the hosts capitalized on their familiarity with the field.

"Our girls had a difficult time adjusting to the size of the field and the thickness of

the grass. Today (last Sunday) they played on a standard adult sized field that is much larger than the field dimensions they are used to. Also, a lot of their passes were not connecting. Because of the fullness of the grass on the field, a lot of their balls were not traveling far or fast enough and our passes were easily intercepted. The size of the field and thickness of the grass made it very difficult for the team to transition from defense to offense. It was obvious in their performance during the first couple of minutes of the game that the girls were very nervous," Vargas said in an email sent to *Saipan Tribune*.

"For this match, Jinshan was

definitely the stronger team. They were quick to pressure, organized in both defense and offense and had good passing quality and very strong chemistry," Vargas added.

Despite losing their first match, Vargas said the coaching staff headed by Olympian Luam Khen Koo lauded the team's efforts as they fought for every possession all throughout the game.

Up next for the CNMI U15 is Chinese-Taipei and Koo and company are hoping that the squad will be more relaxed and confident in the second game as it will face a much tougher team this afternoon. For its final game, the Commonwealth will duel Mongolia (on April 20).

2017 Saipan Little League Baseball

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



A Bank of Saipan first baseman waits for the throw, while a Twins runner heads to first base during their game in the Majors division of the 2017 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.



A Twins runner successfully steals home as the Bank of Saipan catcher has yet to receive the ball.



An Enforcers batter swings during their Senior League game against the Blue Jays.



The Blue Jays' Jaydon Tenorio pitches against the Enforcers.



A McDonald's pitcher throws warm-up pitches.



A Little Legals runner, right, waits for his teammate to bat before making a move, while the McDonald's first baseman gets ready for a catch.



A Braves runner scores.



The Ol'Aces pitcher catches the ball.



Butler, Bulls rally past grieving Celtics in Game 1

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Frazier homers, Pirates beat Cubs for 3-game sweep

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Teen Ayuyus stand out; U15 drops debut



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth's two youth teams had mixed fortunes with the U18 training pool having a productive training camp in Guam and the CNMI Girls U15 National Team losing its debut in the EAFF U15 Girls Tournament 2017 in Shanghai, China.

The Teen Ayuyus capped their five-day training camp with a 2-0 victory over University of Guam yesterday, 2-0. Sunjoon Tenorio scored the pair of goals for the training pool, which nearly swept their training matches in Guam, winning three of their four games.

Tenorio also made all the goals for the pool in their

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI Girls U15 National Team players huddle before their game against Shanghai Jinshan District U15 in the EAFF U15 Girls Tournament 2017 in Shanghai, China last Sunday.

Stephen's Pawnshop, Ali'i/Blue Haus win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Ali'i/Blue Haus and Stephen's Pawnshop earned double-digit winning margins in their respective games in the 2017 San Antonio Summer Basketball League last Saturday at the San Antonio court.

Ali'i/Blue Haus bounced back from a slow start to overhaul a 14-point deficit and steal the victory from SSFM in the nightcap, 90-80, while Stephen Pawnshop had a second-quarter assault for a 91-73 win against Marianas Variety in the curtain-raiser.

Stephen's Pawnshop was just ahead by a hair at the end of the first period, 16-15, when it stepped on the gas in the second to build a 48-32 halftime advantage. Sean Rabasto led Stephen's Pawnshop's surge in the second frame, as he scored 14 of his 21 points in that canto. James Abuy contributed two triples in that run, while three

other Stephen's Pawnshop players added at least two field goals apiece.

It was cruise control from thereon for Stephen's Pawnshop, as Ernest Duenas, Jack Aranda, and Gerald Flores took over in the second half en route to the team's 18-point victory.

Flores, Rabasto, and Duenas combined for 64 points for Stephen's Pawnshop, while Aranda and Abuy also finished in twin digits with 15 and 12, respectively.

In the second game, Ali'i/Blue Haus once stared a 12-26 deficit midway in the first quarter, but managed to regroup late in that period and took control of the game in the second to remain undefeated in three matches.

SSFM caught Ali'i/Blue Haus flatfooted early in the game as Andrew Ashburn found his target in the opening canto, scoring 14 points in that period, including 12 straight. SSFM eventually lost its double-digit lead at the end of the first quarter,

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Ali'i/Blue Haus' Elmer Esdrelon, right, sneaks in and tries to steal the ball from SSFM's Andrew Ashburn during the second quarter of their game in the San Antonio caging last Saturday at the San Antonio court.

3 pairs crowned champions in jr. tennis tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Three pairs made it first to the winner's circle of the 2017 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships.

Andrew Chung and Min Gi Jung prevailed in their one-on-one showdown against David Kwon and Danny Lee for the boys U12 doubles title last Sunday, 6-0, 7-5, at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

In the boys U14 age group, there was also a head-to-head match between Eugene Park and Sam Ryu and Hyun Min Cho and Andy Kim with the first pair surviving the



three-set game. Park and Ryu took the opening set 6-3, but missed a sweep after dropping the closely fought second set, 5-7. Then in the deciding super-tiebreaker third set, the eventual champions regained their bearings and pulled off an 11-9 triumph.

While Ryu and Park labored their way to the title win in their division, Tania Tan and Malika Miyawaki experienced the opposite, as they eased past Mimi Sakano and Ami Tsukagoshi, 6-0, 6-1.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Andrew Chung serves to Danny Lee during their boys U12 singles game in the 2017 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships last Saturday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.